

Friday September 20 1996

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,663

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The bishop's secret son

Roman Catholic Church rocked by latest revelation about Bishop Wright

Madeline Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

THE Catholic church was in turmoil last night after the revelation that the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who disappeared with a divorcee two weeks ago, has a 15-year-old son by another woman.

Joanna Whibley, aged 48, approached the BBC to describe in detail her relationship with the Rt Rev Roderick Wright when he was a curate in Fort William, and how he has refused to acknowledge his son, Kevin. Shortly before Bishop Wright disappeared, he phoned Ms Whibley and promised he would come and live with them after his resignation to "make amends" for the hurt he had caused.

The Scottish Catholic Church confirmed last night that Bishop Wright was the father of Kevin Whibley. Bishop Wright informed Cardinal Winning of the boy's existence at a meeting last Sunday night in Glasgow when he offered his resignation.

"The church authorities were made aware of the fact that Roderick Wright was the father of a child known as Kevin Whibley, born in 1981, last Sunday evening," the Church said in a statement last night. "This was in fact one of the main reasons given for his resignation and was communicated to the Vatican with his resignation."

Father Tom Connelly, spokesman for the Catholic church in Scotland, told BBC Scotland he was devastated. "Clearly the news does an enormous amount of damage to the credibility of the Church, to the credibility of individual priests going about their legitimate business trying to conduct their pastoral affairs."

"And I am absolutely sure that many, many Catholics will be the butt of jokes and slap talk in offices, shops, workshops, colleges and universities."

The Church in Scotland made no reference to the boy at a press conference called on Monday afternoon to announce the bishop's resignation, but defended the omission on the grounds that "it was not for the church authorities to make such confidential information public".

Bishop Wright disappeared two weeks ago from his diocese, as did Kathleen Macphee, a divorced nurse with three children, with whom he has been friendly for nearly 30 years. Their whereabouts are unknown.

Ms Whibley fought back tears as she told on BBC TV how she and her son had kept the secret as her former lover moved up the church hierarchy. "I have lived a lie and so has he," she said from her home in Polgate, East Sussex, but she denied there was any motive of revenge on hearing of his name linked with Ms Macphee.

"I must unburden myself and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he shouldn't even exist. Although Kevin knows it's his dad and Roddy knows it's his dad, he has been an absent father," she said.

Ms Whibley said Bishop Wright had cruelly betrayed her, keeping her hopes of eventual reconciliation alive until a few weeks ago, while all the time he was involved with another woman.

The name of Kevin's father was left off his birth certificate. He said he was tired at feeling awkward when his school friends asked him who his father was. He thought there were other children like him.

"I feel angry at the loss of a father and it's too late now. I don't even want him if he comes now. It is too late."

"I haven't seen him for more than two months put together in my whole life and it was useless then because I have been awkward talking to him. He didn't speak to me but that's probably because I was cold towards him."

According to a statement issued by the Catholic Media Office in London, Cardinal Basil Hume had no prior knowledge of whatever it was that has been disclosed about the bishop in the news this evening. He was shocked and saddened to learn of it and he will make no further comment.

Cardinal Hume later added that he was very distressed. He said in an interview with



Joanna Whibley: 'I must unburden myself... I have lived a lie and so has he'

Chanel 4 news: "But my heart goes out, especially to Kevin and his mother, and also to those people let down by this."

The Catholic church will be subjected to a barrage of questions and criticism following a scandal likely to attract interest among Catholics abroad. The fact that a bishop was able to conceal a son for

15 years and gain promotion will draw accusations of hypocrisy, and church officials admitted last night that the scandal will damage the credibility and authority of the church hierarchy.

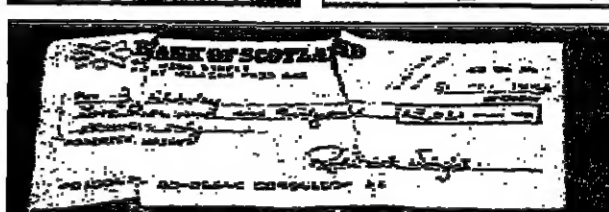
The Catholic church will be under intense pressure also to explain how Bishop Wright was able to send Ms Whibley large sums, most recently a

cheque of £2,000 last July. Bishops receive a stipend as little as £2,000 a year.

The moving revelations of Ms Whibley and the defiant anger of her son, Kevin, come at an embarrassing point after several days of intense debate about the Catholic church's requirement that all priests be celibate. Cardinal Hume and Cardinal Winning

have insisted that the case of Bishop Wright was a minor matter.

They also insisted that his circumstances did not call into question the celibacy required of all priests. Last night Cardinal Hume said he stood by his vigorous defence of celibacy and urged the Church to consider how it prepared its priests.



Kevin Whibley, top left, and his father Bishop Wright, who sent him money, most recently more than £2,000 last July

The end of 'the lie'

"I made up my mind in the night that I must unburden myself and start my life and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he should not even exist... I have lived a lie and so has he."

Joanna Whibley, 48, mother of Bishop Roderick Wright's son

"I am sure many Catholics will be the butt of jokes."

Fr Tom Donnelly, a church spokesman

"I feel angry at the loss of a father and it's too late now. I don't even want him if he comes now. It is too late..."

I haven't seen him for more than two months together in my whole life and it was useless because it was awkward talking to him. He didn't speak to me, probably because I was cold towards him."

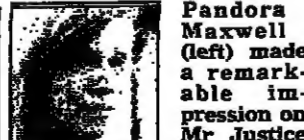
Kevin Whibley, 15

Maxwell goes free: so who did steal the £400m?

Dan Atkinson and Rebecca Smithers

DEMANDS for radical changes to the system which involves juries hearing complex fraud cases escalated yesterday as Kevin Maxwell walked from the High Court a free man. A judge ruled he will not face a second trial in connection with the £425 million pension-fund scandal that sank his father's media empire nearly five years ago.

The decision, which ends all criminal proceedings in the Maxwell affair, prompted the Serious Fraud Office director, George Staple, to warn



Pandora Maxwell (left) made a remarkable impression on Mr Justice Buckley when she spoke of stress caused by the threat of a second trial.

"Her obvious distress of 'serious implications' for the trial of white-collar crime. There are suggestions from inside the SFO that courts should be given back the power they lost 28 years ago to swear in 'special juries' composed of bank managers,

was, I am convinced, entirely genuine. She described the agony of trial and the days waiting for the verdict with the prospect of a significant prison sentence in the balance. "She told me of problems with her children. In particular, their son, who had been told by schoolmates that his father was going to

prison. Whenever her husband goes out she is asked 'Will daddy be coming home again?' "Mrs Maxwell's bewilderment and anger at the decision to proceed to another trial were not fanned by such matters, but no one could have been unmoved by her evidence."

Mr Justice Buckley delivered his decision in a 55-minute statement in Court 12. "These proceedings serve no further public interest and benefit." A second trial "would be unfair, so unfair as

to amount to an abuse of power of the court." Kevin, his brother Ian, and the financial adviser, Larry Trachtenberg, were cleared in January after a 131-day trial on charges of conspiracy to defraud pension funds. The SFO announced it would proceed with separate charges against Kevin, Mr Trachtenberg and the former Maxwell executive, Albert Fuller, on conspiracy to defraud bankers.

Two more counts involved Kevin, Mr Fuller and Mr turn to page 3, column 3



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Sketch

Greens looking fairly faded



Stuart Millar

IT MAY have been a typing error, but insiders prefer to see it as a calculated bid for publicity. To the horror of Green Party officials, the draft agenda for their autumn conference this week bore the dubious invitation: "Female circumcision - bring your own instruments". Whether cock-up or conspiracy, it would undoubtedly have been less cringe-inducing than the reality of the conference yesterday.

Delegates arrived in buoyant mood. Spurred by their campaigning success on the Road Traffic Reduction Bill and a recent increase in membership, the party was putting on a good show of renewed optimism and a determination to continue the fight.

Yet you just can't help feeling sorry for the Greens. While their mainstream political rivals spend the annual conference season in the relative luxury of Blackpool, Brighton or Bournemouth, this party's dedicated activists are saddled with a grey and windswept Hastings.

Of course, the Sussex town and the party do have a few things in common - both were thrust unwittingly into the limelight by one-off cataclysmic political events only to fade into decay.

And just as the town's new slogan is "1996 - the year Hastings battled back", the Greens are struggling to recapture their earlier promise.

But no matter how much they want to change the planet, it is difficult to escape the notion that they are not really of it.

Review

Cold witness of human bondage

Adrian Searle

Robert Mapplethorpe  
Hayward Gallery, London

ROBERT Mapplethorpe always was a bad boy. The latest exhibition of his work, which opens to the public today, arrives in London in a predictable fantasy of indignation. True to form for the American photographer, who died of Aids in 1989, it runs the gamut from willies to lilies, from portraiture to pornography.

It includes pictures of children - though not the one of Rosie, a young girl with no knickers, at the centre of the recent row over allegedly pornographic imagery. The picture was among some 40 left out because there wasn't enough room for the whole of the huge touring show at the Hayward. The organisers admit to having taken legal advice, but also argue that Rosie is not a key work.

The 200-odd works that are exhibited make it clear that whether Mapplethorpe is photographing a flower in a vase, a battleship on a grey horizon, an erect penis or a society beauty, the same erotic charge is present. This is why his work seems so dangerous. He was, in many respects, a very conventional photographer, with his coldly glamorous portraits of Donald Sutherland and Doris Saatchi, the painter Willem De Kooning and the actress Susan Sarandon, his sometimes touching, almost sentimental, pictures of children, and his elegantly staged still lives of flowers.

Part of the shock, however, is that these ordinary subjects

MEPs want curbs on 'cheap' television

Andrew Cuff  
Media Correspondent

LEGISLATION to protect public service broadcasters including the BBC was demanded yesterday by the European Parliament. MEPs voted in Strasbourg for laws to stop satellite and cable companies from having exclusive access to sports

while a smattering of delegates sat around little tables, sipping tea from Thermos flasks and clapping politely. As the soft-spoken chairman called delegates up to speak by their first names, observers could have been forgiven for thinking they had strayed into the local Women's Institute rather than a crucial party conference at a defining moment in British politics.

And that banner above the platform would have had Maurice Saatchi spinning in his ermine finery - a big, admittedly clever-looking, green and yellow owl bearing the slogan "We have the answers". Looking around the sparsely populated room, one question they couldn't answer was what had happened to all the delegates.

The retired general - who now serves as President Bill Clinton's drug-enforcement supremo - said that on March 4, 1991, his entire division was within 15 miles of an Iraqi bunker used to store chemical weapons when, apparently unknown by him at the time, it was destroyed by US demolition experts.

More than 60,000 US and 1,700 British veterans of the Gulf war have persistently complained of mysterious health problems which they suspect were caused by exposure to non-conventional weapons during the campaign to liberate Kuwait.

Gen McCaffrey expressed his fears as the Pentagon admitted for the first time that more than 5,000 US troops may have been exposed to sarin when the concrete bunker in the sprawling Kamisayah ammunition depot was blown up, sending a dense cloud of smoke drifting across the desert.

The US Defence Department had previously insisted that only about 300 or 400 troops directly involved in the Kamisayah demolition may have been exposed to chemical weapons after the March 4 explosion and the later destruction of a store of Katyusha rockets with chemical warheads on March 10.

The emergence of new details strikes directly at the Pentagon's position. Before it began conceding that some troops may have been affected, it had insisted for more than four years that US troops were not exposed in

US general explodes Pentagon's defence against claims of Gulf war syndrome

Nerve gas 'hit 24,000'

Gen Katz in New York

AN AMERICAN general yesterday blew apart the pretence that mysterious illnesses known collectively as the "Gulf war syndrome" may have affected only a small number of allied troops who served in the 1990-91 conflict.

General Barry McCaffrey, a senior commander during the war, said he feared as many as 24,000 of his troops may have been exposed to the deadly nerve gas sarin when United States soldiers blew up a massive ammunition depot in southern Iraq shortly after the conflict had ended.

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The way it was... gas masks in the Gulf attempted to combat ever-present threat of nerve gas attack PHOTOGRAPH MARTIN ARGILES

large numbers to chemical or biological weapons.

Gen McCaffrey told Newsday that an inspection of maps and records showed that his 24th Mechanised Infantry Division had been within 15 miles of so-called "Bunker 73" when it was blown up. The Pentagon has admitted that troops within a 18-mile radius may have suffered "low-level exposure".

Indicating that no one had heard of this report [of the sarin demolition] before, we were scared to death precisely this would happen. He said his troops had worn rubber suits, gloves and boot

coverings throughout the war to protect against gas attacks - but had not been wearing gas masks when the bunker was demolished.

On Wednesday night the Pentagon said that it was raising its estimate of the number of troops who may have been affected because its investigators had discovered that chemical agents may have been released on two separate occasions, and not just one.

"As we learn more about Kamisayah in the next few weeks we expect to identify more troops who might have been exposed," the Pentagon said in a statement.

The US military has said that it is notifying all veterans who may have been ex-

posed, but is now certain to come under intense pressure to provide details on precisely which units were in the area.

Earlier this month, a White House inquiry into Gulf war syndrome criticised the Pentagon for conducting a "superficial" investigation and warned that officials had dramatically underestimated the number of troops who may have been exposed.

David Fairhall writes: A Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said yesterday: "No British forces were in the vicinity of Bunker 73. The nearest British troops were 150 kilometers south-east of Kamisayah, concentrated west of Kuwait City."

But the US reports will nevertheless provide ammunition for British veterans meeting in Southampton this weekend who are appealing for more information about ex-service personnel suffering from Gulf war syndrome.

"We're not surprised to hear of this," Tony Flin, regional co-ordinator of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association, said last night. "Obviously we must now investigate whether any British troops were in the same area."

The association has set up a helpline (0161 929 4748) for those seeking advice.

Cabinet stalls on beef decision

A SPECIAL Cabinet meeting on BSE and the beef crisis ended after two hours last night with no decision on limiting meat imports to the UK, despite earlier indications that British cattle was ready to snub its European partners and unilaterally cut back on the cattle to be killed.

A Downing Street spokesman said there would be "no statement at this stage". There is expected to be clarification this morning.

The Prime Minister chaired the talks, called to discuss the way ahead for BSE curbs in Britain. Ministers, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, and the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, are thought to have considered a proposal on means of limiting imports.

The EU Commission offered a ray of hope on Wednesday night by agreeing to look at the British research which suggests mass slaughter is unnecessary.

Both Tory backbenchers and some Cabinet members are gloomy about the prospects of either the European Commission or other EU member states softening their stance on British beef. It means some kind of backdash against imported beef would be likely to strike a chord among disgruntled Conservatives.

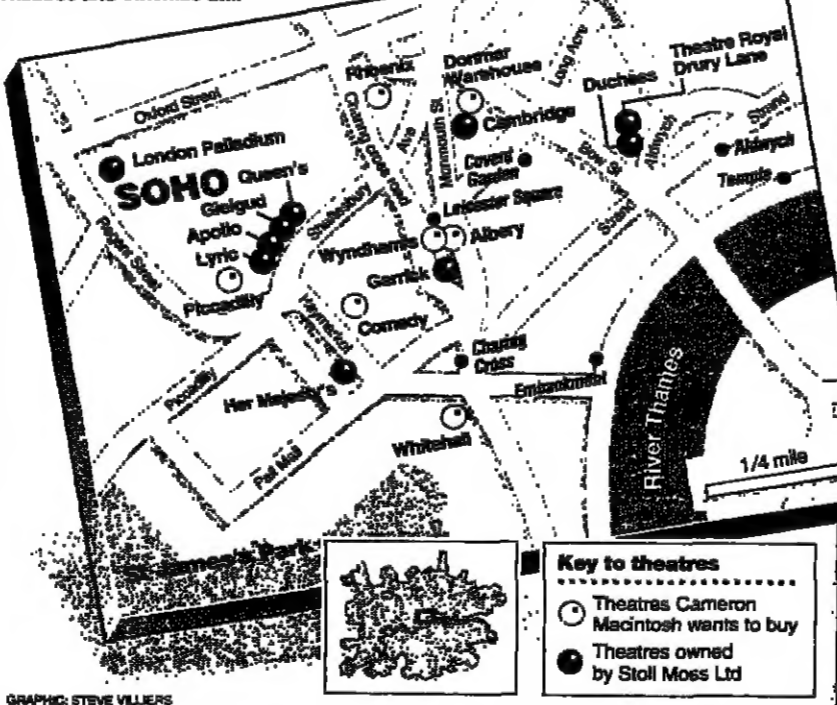
A European Commission spokesman confirmed yesterday that it would be examining the new scientific evidence from Britain, but said it was unlikely that the export ban could be lifted within months.

Earlier, a cross-party group of Northern Ireland politicians met Mr Major at Downing Street to emphasise to him that the BSE crisis is having a serious effect on the Ulster economy, and call for action. They left with no assurance that farmers in Northern Ireland would be treated differently.

In Strasbourg MEPs - John Hume, the SDLP leader, and the Ulster Unionist Jim Nicholson - were jointly pressing the case at a meeting with the EU Agriculture Commissioner.

That's showbiz!

Cameron Mackintosh owns the Prince of Wales and Prince Edward theatres. He intends to buy seven more West End theatres now owned by Mayfair Theatres and Cinemas Ltd.



GRAPHIC: STEVE WILKERS

Cameron's theatre shopping list



Producer set for West End coup

Mackintosh plan to buy seven theatres wins an ovation

Sarah Bosseley

CAMERON Mackintosh, the multi-millionaire producer of many of Britain's most successful musicals, from Cats to Les Misérables and Miss Saigon, looks set to buy seven West End theatres and become the most influential figure in London's theatreland.

Mackintosh, already the owner of the Prince of Wales and the Prince Edward theatres, is thought to be in the final stages of negotiations with Mayfair Theatres and Cinemas, owners of the Albery, Piccadilly, Donmar Warehouse, Whitehall, Wyndham's, Comedy and Phoenix theatres. The deal would be worth many millions. The Playhouse, a small London theatre, was on the market recently for £2 million. It is largely thanks to Mackintosh that musicals have swept the West End -



Cameron Mackintosh: in final negotiations

there are 18 now playing - a development that has dismayed those who mourn the disappearing serious drama. And yet the theatrical world was yesterday delighted at the prospect of Mackintosh taking control of such a slice of the West End. "One of the crucial points is that for a long time a number of us have felt that one of the main problems in the West End is that theatres are not owned, as they are in the United States, by people who put

on plays," said the theatre critic, Sheridan Morley, who says he expects an announcement of the deal this weekend.

"These buildings are now a hundred years old and need a lot of work. An absentee landlord is less likely to do it."

Andrew Lloyd-Webber had refurbished the Adelphi, where his hit Sunset Boulevard is playing, and the Palace Theatre, where Mackintosh's Les Misérables was still running. Mackintosh has done "a raft of stunning propositions" on the Prince Edward, where his new musical, Martin Guerre, opened in July, said Mr Morley.

If Mackintosh did the same on his new clutch of theatres, "they will suddenly have warmth and heart".

Mackintosh, who commands extraordinary devotion from colleagues, would certainly want his theatres to look smart and attractive, both as a matter of pride and to attract audiences who may be deterred by their current shabbiness.

Producers, managers and critics alike robustly refute any suggestion that the new Mackintosh venues would hold yet more all-singing, all-dancing shows. For a start, they argue, most of them are too small for musicals.

"They are all basically straight play theatres," said Michael Billington, the Guardian's theatre critic. "They are the heart at the moment of drama in the West End - the Albery has Chekhov, the Wyndham has a new play. I would hope and assume that if Cameron Mackintosh does take them over, he will pursue that policy. He is a very shrewd and sensible theatrical operator. He is a musical specialist, but he does know about straight plays and I assume he would approach them as straight play venues."

Howard Watson, of the Society of London Theatres, said: "His support of theatre as an individual rather than as a producer with a company goes right across the board. He does a lot of charity work for theatres. He helped get the Old Fire Station in Oxford up and running."

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The Guardian Saga of the rising sons

Ian and Kevin follow well-trodden path into Russia

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### Saga of the rising sons

#### Ian and Kevin follow well-trodden path into Russia



Kevin Maxwell and Pandora, the wife who stood by him throughout the trial and since, outside their home at Mallsford Manor

PHOTOGRAPH GARY CALTON

# Maxwells' star shines in the East

Lisa Buckingham, Colin Weston, David Gow and Richard Norton-Taylor

**L**IKE peas out of a tarnished pod. Kevin and Ian Maxwell have turned their business skills towards publishing, television... and Russia. Their father, the discredited media tycoon, Robert Maxwell, was born in Czechoslovakia and always maintained strong links with eastern Europe even when that meant endorsing some of the region's most vilified regimes.

He spoke six east European languages, and claimed to be a trusted associate of the former Soviet chief, Mikhail Gorbachev. Now two of his sons, who were routinely humiliated by their father when they worked as hired hands in his media empire, are plunging the same furrow.

They are working in what is described as a freelance capacity for Westbourne Communications, a central London consultancy run by Jean Baddley — Robert Maxwell's long-standing secretary — which has a number of projects in the former Soviet Union. It is said to pay them up to £30,000 a year each — almost certainly a gross under-estimate.

Chief among Westbourne's projects is a plan to set up a satellite TV operation for 150

million viewers in partnership with the state-controlled All-Russian Television and Radio. But the junior Maxwells have already been involved with Maximov Publications in producing a Who's Who of top Russians retailing at £100.

Ian is listed as an editorial director and is a constant visitor to its Moscow offices.

At one time they were working with Nordex, a mysterious Vienna-based trading company, many of whose employees are former Soviet intelligence officers.

Their involvement with Nordex was arranged through Westbourne, Nordex, which trades in the Middle East as well as countries of the former Soviet block, was reported three years ago to have a turnover of £1.7 billion.

Its activities have caught the attention of western intelligence agencies.

Mrs Baddley said yesterday that Westbourne's relationship with Nordex came to "a natural end" in 1994. "The Maxwell brothers came to the attention of the intelligence services in 1994. They are plugged into all the right people."

A father of six, Kevin was spectacularly declared bankrupt with record debts of £406.5 million but has been working long hours — in addition to the time he has spent on his defence — on his freelance work.

Always portrayed as the brightest of the Maxwell offspring, Kevin was ultimately unable to withstand the sheer force of his father.

But when the sky fell in on the empire after Maxwell disappeared from his yacht, it was the apparently iron-spined women of the family who caught the imagination as the backbone of the family.

Cap'n Bob's wife, Elizabeth, was, however, soon to reveal what hell the media tycoon had put her through and the apparently made-in-heaven match between the second oldest son, Ian, and his wife Laura was to fall apart.

Laura stood by Ian's side for the entire 131-day trial, and had remained steadfast despite the prospect of homelessness. But the blonde Chicago-born former model who had taken up a career in TV, finally quit her husband's side after five years of marriage.

Only Pandora, Kevin's



Kevin Maxwell: working as consultant for ex-secretary



Ghislaine Maxwell... only sibling still untarnished

### Facts and figures of the affair

- The Maxwell affair began 1,752 days ago, when Kevin told a press conference in December 1991 that he "couldn't say" whether the group's pension funds remained in surplus.
- Inquiries established a £25 million shortfall on Maxwell pension schemes: 32,000 pensioners were affected, although all have now been compensated.
- Bringing the Maxwell brothers to trial cost at least £25 million.
- The Maxwell allegations rank as Britain's largest domestic fraud case.
- Jurors in the 131-day trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell and the financial adviser, Larry Trachtenberg, made history in January with the longest retirement of any jury — 11 nights.
- Kevin was in the witness box for 21 days; his brother, Ian, did not give evidence.
- Nobody has been convicted of a criminal offence in relation to the affair, nor is any senior banker known to have resigned.

### Decision will bring calls for jury reform

Clare Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**T**HE final collapse of the Maxwell prosecutions will inevitably prompt calls for radical reform of juries in complex fraud trials.

The Serious Fraud Office fears yesterday's decision could undermine its whole approach to the most complex cases — splitting them into a series of trials to make them manageable for juries. Prosecutors fear the message of yesterday's ruling — that if the first trial fails they may not get a second chance — will make it hard to convey a whole picture of dishonesty to a randomly chosen jury.

The SFO believes there is no chance that Parliament would accept the 1986 recommendations of the Roskill Committee on Fraud Trials, that such cases be dealt with by a judge with two specially qualified assessors. But the office may lobby the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's department for a revival of the special seven-member juries which sat at the Old Bailey until just after the second world war, to deal with serious frauds. The SFO may press for a minimum educa-

tional requirement, such as GCSEs in English and maths.

The office may also float a proposal that those selected to sit on a jury for months should be paid, and their employers compensated for their absence, to discourage better-qualified people from opting out of jury service.

They will argue that juries comprising such people could cope with weighing up the evidence in even the longest, most complex cases — removing the need to break them up into several trials.

Any move to tamper with the jury system will meet strong opposition from the senior judiciary, the Bar and the Law Society. Pressure for research into how juries reach their verdicts is mounting from senior lawyers and academics though not, on the whole, from judges, who fear too close a scrutiny of the jury could be the first step to its demise. The Contempt of Court Act bars all research into jury deliberations.

James Morton, editor of the New Law Journal and joint author of a book on juries, said: "The first thing that must be done is to repeal the ban in the Contempt of Court Act so we can have proper research on juries."

After the Maxwell defendants' acquittal last January, the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, conceded that the Government would need to look "carefully" at the possibility of dispensing with juries in fraud trials.

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Only Pandora, Kevin's

earthly spoken other half — famed for telling a dawn raid of police and fraud investigators to "piss off" — has remained on side, even bearing another child.

Pandora, the daughter of a car number plate maker, never saw eye-to-eye with Kevin's father — an animosity which was, by all accounts, wholly reciprocated — although she claimed to have been "charmed" by the charming tycoon as much as most others.

Neither Kevin nor Ian was immune to this paternal seduction, even though clearly intimidated by their father who felt no compunction in publicly humiliating both.

Apart from the oldest surviving child, Phillip, who long since distanced himself from his father's business, and Isabel, only Ghislaine, the 34-year-old younger daughter — regarded as the apple of Daddy's eye — appears untarnished by the brush of the scandal.

A persistent subject of tabloid speculation about her lifestyle and romantic attachments, she appears to have maintained her spending and

standing in social circles since her father's death.

Most recently Ms Maxwell, who has lived in the US for the past five years and severed up her UK roots when she sold a £350,000 house, stated her occupation as "Internet writer." When on a visit to London she was fined £1,000 last month for drink-driving.

In the most expensive criminal trial in history, Ian and Kevin have run up a legal bill of up to £20 million, virtually all of which is being paid by legal aid.

In addition, the Serious Fraud Office investigation has cost about £11 million of taxpayers' money.

Despite bankruptcy declarations, aid to the Maxwell brothers prompted the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, to announce a crackdown on cases where "apparently wealthy" people received legal aid while the clearly impoverished got nothing.

Ian's assets were frozen, pending civil action, long before the trial, which meant they could not be counted towards his wealth when making an assessment for

legal aid. Kevin was declared a bankrupt and was said to have signed on the dole before the trial started. He has recently been discharged as a bankrupt.

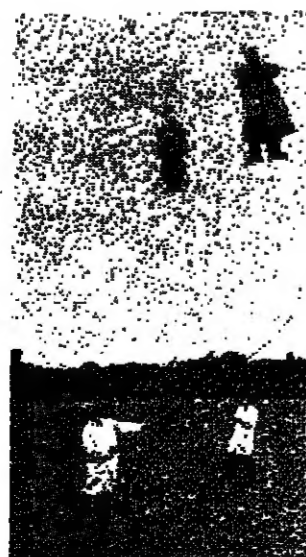
But, as if his own court embroiglo was insufficient, Kevin popped up earlier this year as a defence witness for Owen Oysten, the discredited socialist businessman who was eventually found guilty of sexual assault.

And a growing taste for legal jousting was further indulged when Kevin recently attempted to stop publication of Jeffrey Archer novel, The Fourth Estate, which is loosely based on rivalry between his father and Rupert Murdoch.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## Scientists claim breakthrough in zero-gravity sminting

By IAN MODAIRE



Russian volunteers

the humming birds could achieve a state of complete weightlessness. In other words, they could float. Even more sensational, this experiment has now been carried out on humans; some as heavy as 20 stone.

Leaked photographs taken "somewhere in England" show Russian volunteers floating at least 15 feet in the air and being secured by fishing lines. Professor Hart explains: "At first, it was a bit tricky with the humans, especially the overweight Russian volunteers. We had to subject them to continuous sminting before we saw any effect."

But once we got the dose right, we had them floating on air for up to an hour at a time."



After being exposed to the effects of a small, blue rectangular pack just once, Makes your mouth a much nicer place.

## Who did steal the £400m?

continued from page 1  
Trachtenberg on related charges. The former Maxwell executive, Michael Stone, would have faced two accusations of false accounting.

None of these charges will now be prosecuted. The SFO claimed yesterday's ruling had put it in an impossible position. Already the judiciary has ruled that jurors should not have to sit through lengthy trials relating to large numbers of offences, so the SFO has responded, as in the Maxwell case, by "severing" the indictment into separate cases.

Now, Mr Justice Buckley has ruled that it ought in future to be "unusual" for there to be a second trial in such cases.

Mr Staple said: "This case vividly illustrates the difficulties of large fraud cases." In June, the director suggested the time may have come to examine the possibility of taking juries out of lengthy fraud trials and replacing them with panels of judges, "expert assessors" or a mixture of the two.

But a school of thought inside the agency suggests "special juries", abolished in 1970, may provide a compromise acceptable to whoever forms the next Government. The SFO believed it had a right to verdicts on the whole



Kevin (right) and Ian Maxwell celebrate after the decision

of its Maxwell indictment, the judge disagreed. He said that where there was an "affront to fair play and decency... the administration of justice is better served by staying the proceedings."

He attacked the "unhealthy and adverse media publicity" surrounding the Maxwell affair and said another trial would signal to the public that the authorities did not accept the verdict of the first jury. "I accept the jury's verdict. These proceedings are stayed."

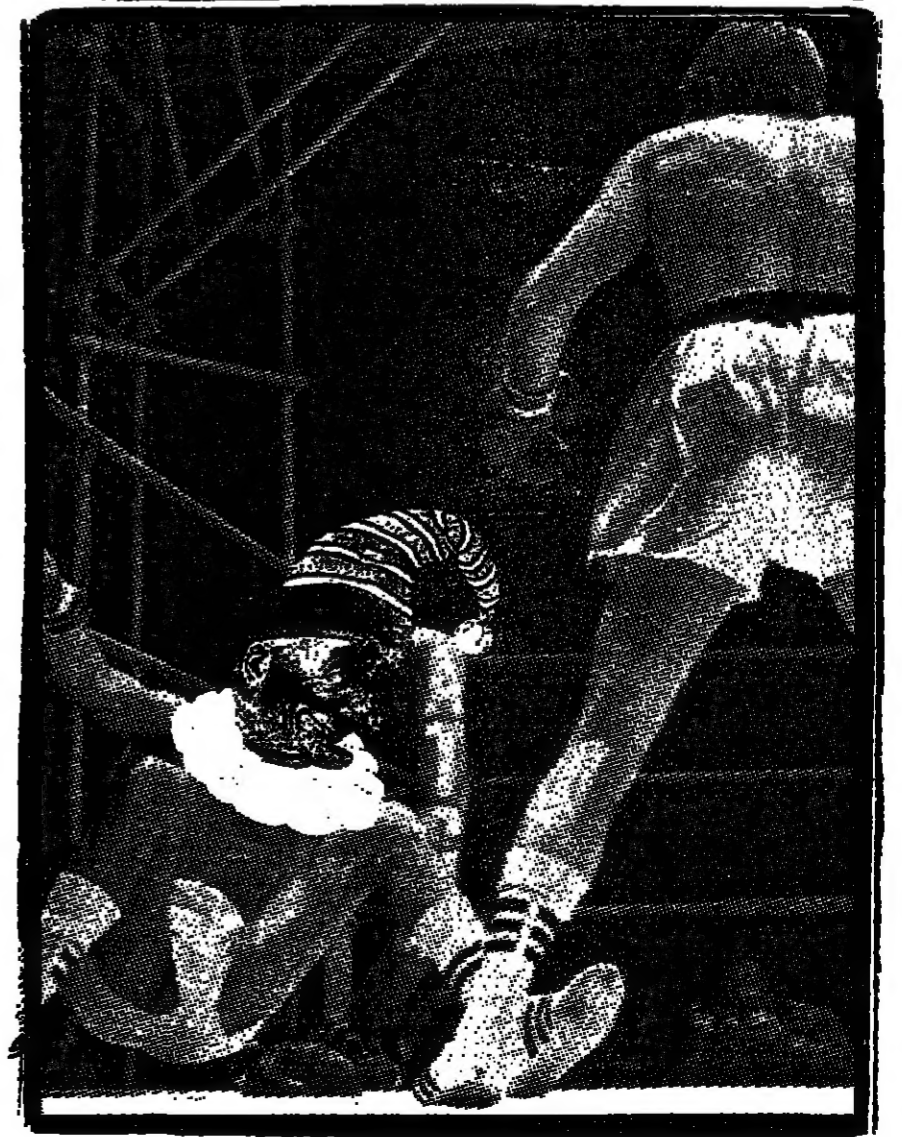
There were extraordinary scenes outside the High Court as Kevin emerged with his arm around his brother, Ian. Police battled with reporters to clear a path to a waiting Alfa Romeo saloon. Shortly afterwards, Kevin faced the media in the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn and spoke of a "sense of relief that a nightmare is over". He thanked his wife, family

and friends and responded to criticisms of his multi-million pound legal-aid bill. "Justice... and my freedom [don't] have a price."

"This is... a great day for me personally." His next move would be "lunch, hopefully." He was "still pretty numb from this morning's decision. It hasn't sunk in."

As the Maxwells celebrated, the SFO was once again the target for criticism. Labour's economic spokesman, Mike O'Brien, confirmed that the role of the anti-fraud force would come within the regulatory review promised should the party form the next government. "Some of the decisions taken by the SFO and the way in which they have been implemented have raised concerns for some years."

The Liberal Democrats suggested the office's twin investigation-prosecution function ought to be separated.



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Radiotimes



# 4 BRITAIN Kurdish TV still on air after raids

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**S**TAFF at the world's only Kurdish television station vowed to continue broadcasting from their London headquarters yesterday after normal service was interrupted by a police raid for material linking it to terrorism.

Hikmet Tabuk, director of Med-TV, last night used an emergency satellite link to tell the station's audience in Europe and south-eastern Turkey that simultaneous searches had also been mounted on Wednesday at the company offices in Belgium and homes in Germany.

Subscribers saw only a message on TV screens announcing: "We have been attacked by the enemy. We hope to continue broadcasting soon."

Raids were also reported on the Kurdistan parliament in exile in Brussels and Kurdish premises in France.

Computer disks and files were seized from the channel's central London office during a three-hour visit by Special Branch officers using a warrant issued under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, staff said.

No one has been charged but Scotland Yard said last

night that investigations were continuing.

"The Turks give information about us, but the question is whether it is accurate or not," Mr Tabuk said. "We are confident that we have nothing to hide."

"This raid on a minority language broadcaster shows the enormous pressures deployed against any expression of Kurdish cultural identity," Mr Tabuk said that quick Turkish media coverage of the raids — the main story in yesterday's newspapers — suggested Ankara had prior knowledge.

Turkish TV reported last night that 80 Med-TV studio staff and other Kurdish activists in Brussels were still in custody after police searched 20 houses following the seizure in Luxembourg of 350 million francs (£45 million) belonging to the company.

Turkey, a member of Nato and a candidate for the European Union, has made the closure of the channel, on air for 17 months, a high priority in its foreign relations.

Turkey claims Med-TV is the propaganda arm of the separatist Kurdish Workers' Party, which has been fighting a bloody 11-year war in the south-east of the country. Med-TV says it is simply a voice for the Kurds, the world's largest stateless nation.



Details of Van Gogh's Farm near Auvers, moving from the Tate to the National Gallery, and (below) Picasso's Fruit Dish, Bottle and Violin, which is going in the opposite direction

## Modern art on move in galleries reshuffle

Maev Kennedy on a matter of definition

**M**ODERN ART began in 1900, it has been officially decided, and as a result Picasso, Monet, and Gauguin will have to move home.

The directors of the two great British art collections, the National Gallery and the Tate, are to exchange dozens of paintings in a move to rationalise their displays.

The Tate will now declare 1900 as the starting date for its modern foreign collection — the British collection will still begin with works dating from the 17th century. The Tate will lend some paintings predating 1900 to fill gaps in the display of the National Gallery, receiving in return masterpieces including Monet's magnificent late Water Lilies.

"We think it is very important that the collections should be where they make the most sense, and where the public can most enjoy them," said Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery.

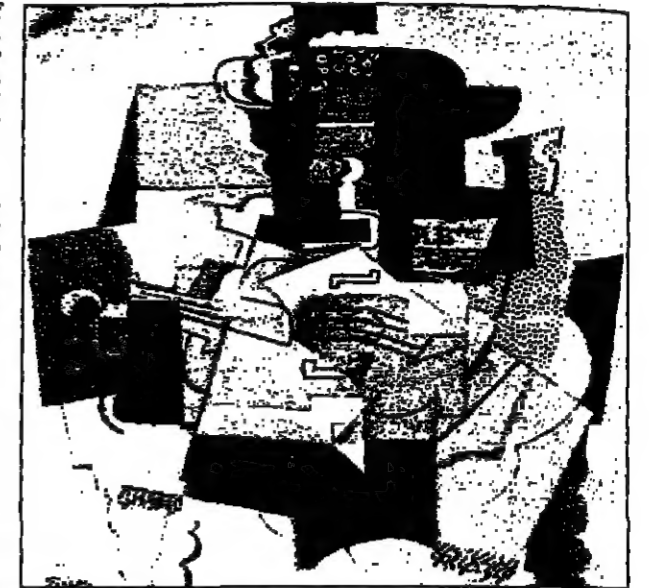
In the past, it took a lot of homework for visitors to follow the careers of major artists like Matisse or Picasso, and realise that 10-year gaps in their development in one collection were filled by paintings in the other.

The Tate had nothing by the influential Gustav Klimt, but will now receive a wonderful society portrait of 1904. The National also had some odd holes. Gauguin, renowned for the blazing colour of his Tahitian paintings, had up until now been represented by a

single sober early vase of flowers, but the gallery will soon house a classic late work, Faa Theie, painted in 1898, and described by Mr MacGregor as "a virtual resume of his achievements in Tahiti".

He said the date 1900 — already attacked by some critics as too late for the Impressionists and too early for Abstract — was chosen as being simple and logical, and also making the most sense for the pictures in the collections.

A bit of legwork will still be needed to follow the careers of artists like Monet, who bridged the 19th and 20th centuries. Their work will still be split, and Monet's works will travel in both directions as part of the loan arrangement.



## New gain for women priests

Madeline Bunting  
Religious Affairs Editor

**T**HE Church in Wales voted by the narrowest of margins yesterday to lift the ban on women becoming priests.

The change scraped through by one vote among the clergy — though bishops and laity voted heavily in favour — ending the last bar on women in the priesthood within the Anglican church in Britain.

The decision, at a tense meeting in Lampeter, comes nearly three years after the Church of England dropped its ban, and also brings the Welsh Anglicans in line with the Church in Scotland and Ireland.

Most of the 70 women deacons in the Church will now be looking forward to a mass ordination celebration early next year. Two years ago their hopes were dashed when the same bill was defeated by conservative clergy.

All six bishops in the Church — which has just over 90,000 adherents in Wales — voted for women becoming priests after the Archbishop of Wales made a passionate appeal to the

conference not to allow the Church to become isolated.

"We will simply slide backwards and nobody will be prepared to listen to us. We will just be a forgotten province of the Anglican Church," said the Rt Rev Alwyn Rice-Jones.

Women clergy had warned that the Church would lose candidates to England if the vote failed again.

The Rev Valerie Jones, who is in charge of three parishes near Llangollen, Clwyd, was among those celebrating. "I don't know what would have happened if the vote had been lost again. There has been a great sense of frustration and work left undone since we saw women priests allowed in England and elsewhere."

The laity voted heavily in favour by 136 votes to 47. The real opposition was in the clergy section which only just managed the required two-thirds majority of 85 in favour and 40 against.

Some clergy may now consider leaving the Church. The bill includes compensation arrangements for those among the 600-odd priests who decide to quit, amounting to two years' full pay — £26,000 — but only if they can prove hardship and resign within a year.

## Students face £1,000 fees

Donald Macleod  
Education Correspondent

**S**EVERAL universities will be charging students £1,000 top-up fees next year to meet a shortfall in government funding, the leader of Britain's vice-chancellors said yesterday.

Gareth Roberts, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), said the six universities expected to charge students could be followed in 1998 by about 20 more.

His prediction — which provoked a furious response from student leaders — is the clearest indication of a funding crisis in universities following a 5 per cent cut to the sector in last year's Budget. More Treasury cuts are planned, including a 50 per cent reduction in capital funding over three years.

Prof Roberts said he feared that top-up fees would lead to the re-emergence of the rift between universities and polytechnics. Several of the most popular universities would be in a strong position to charge fees without denting recruitment.

He said about six universities would charge fees of £1,000 next year. The London School of Economics is undertaking a feasibility study on fees, while Birmingham and Huddersfield universities have been discussing their introduction. Last year's budget settlement provoked the CVCP into threatening a £300 levy on new students — which prompted Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, to set up an inquiry by Sir Ron Dearing into higher education funding.

Although the vice-chancellors expect him to recommend fees, in the meantime

short-term funding problems are growing. Another bad budget settlement would lead to more redundancies among lecturers, Prof Roberts said. There have already been 2,000 posts cut this year.

At their annual conference in Sheffield, the vice-chancellors dropped proposals for students to repay £20,000 towards the cost of their degrees which they had planned to submit to Sir Ron's inquiry.

Douglas Trainer, president of the NUS, welcomed the vice-chancellors' decision to shelve their plan for £20,000 student loans — but pledged opposition to top-up fees. Individual vice-chancellors would be targeted in any university that tried to introduce fees. Parents and students would be warned in a move to embarrass "rogue institutions", while the union would also consider legal action, he said.

## 'Four-year' legal aid bills

Claire Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**A**TYPICAL litigant on legal aid who loses a court case will take four years to pay off the costs under plans to change the legal aid system, solicitors were told yesterday.

Gary Streeter, junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, told lawyers campaigning against the changes that in an average case it would take a year if the litigant won or four years if they lost.

His speech, to a joint conference of the Law Society and the Legal Aid Practitioners Group in Cardiff, was designed to damp down solicitors' growing anger at the proposals and head off a possible boycott by advice agencies, who will play a key role under the changes.

Mr Streeter said the minimum contribution everyone would have to pay to get aid for a court case would be very low. Solicitors, who have mounted a joint campaign against the plans with nine advice organisations, were in no mood to be placated.

Tony Girling, the Law Society president, said the requirement of a one-off fee would place justice beyond the reach of the very poor. The proposal to make losing litigants on legal aid liable for their opponents' costs "will deter decent, hard-working people from bringing genuine cases for fear of being ruined if they lost."

Mr Streeter said legal aid had lost the confidence of the public, who perceived it as "top-sided and wasteful." At present most people who get legal aid face little or no risk of having to pay anything towards the cost. "With nothing to lose, it is not surprising that some people try their luck with weak or trivial cases that no one would dream of paying for themselves. Worse still, opponents, knowing they cannot recover their costs, often concede good cases."

Mr Girling, who outlined Law Society proposals to save £125 million, said: "Let us sweep away the abuses by all means. But in the process let us not sweep away the Child Bs... the victims of asbestos, the tenants living in unfit properties, the hundreds and thousands of ordinary people who have been helped to justice where there would have been none."

Marlene Winfield of the National Consumer Council, said: "We will make even the poorest pay something towards their legal aid. The main effect will be to deter legitimate cases from being brought."

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**To many in the brutish, swaggering world of gangsta rap, and even to those who followed his exploits from afar, the biggest surprise was that he lived so long.**

**Ian Katz on the life and death of Tupac Amaru Shakur**

**Friday Review front**

**You can't always look the other way**

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**PM's 'big idea' turns five**

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PM's 'big idea' turns five

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

AMBULANCE services in England and Wales will start to prioritise emergency calls from next year...



John Major and public services minister Roger Freeman watch Moseley School, Birmingham pupils compile Charter Mark league tables

within 20 working days — one of 100 new commitments to improve health, education, transport and public services.

month of their first cancelled operation has gone up in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Launching the white paper, John Major said: "At the heart of the Citizen's Charter is one simple thought: service users should come first.

Roger Freeman said the success of the Citizen's Charter was reflected in the fact that there are 42 national charters and 10,000 local schemes.

been "a national joke", adding: "This anniversary presented the Government with a unique opportunity to transform the programme into a real force for change.

Tory deal on currency ruled out

Michael White Political Editor

SENIOR Conservatives last night dismissed hopes of agreeing a compromise in the feud over the single European currency...

whinney, on the "extremist" Liberal Democrats. "The whole of the Conservative Party is united in not wishing to be part of a federal Europe," said Dr Mawhinney.

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Cook praises 'thoughtful and energetic' Labour leader

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair received fulsome praise last night from Robin Cook, one of the leading left-wingers in the shadow cabinet.

Mawhinney makes play for 'soft' Lib Dem support

Michael White

THE Liberal Democrats were last night fighting off a Conservative drive to paint Paddy Ashdown's party as a "radical left-wing" organisation...

Devolution vote defended

DOUG Henderson, Labour's spokesman on constitutional issues, will defend the party's decision to seek endorsement of a Scottish parliament through a referendum in a Guardian Charter 88 debate in Edinburgh tonight.

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Above, one of Sheriff Arpaio's chain gang "volunteers". Above right, the women leave the prison, shackled together and stirred by the words of their marching song, right, composed by the gang's unofficial leader



We go to work so we don't get fat, Wear orange suits and orange hats,

Big wide belts and shiny boots, People say that we look cute.

# Women put to work in US chain gang

Chris Reed in Phoenix, Arizona

AMERICA'S latest innovation in penal servitude clanked out of a Phoenix jail at dawn yesterday: 15 women shackled together in the country's first female chain gang. "It's equal opportunity incarceration," declared Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who proudly calls himself America's toughest law officer. As civil rights activists held a demonstration nearby, he barked: "Forget all that stuff about rehabilitation. I'm not an educator, I'm not a social worker, I'm a cop. The women weed and pick up rubbish in the city streets. They work eight hours a day, seven days a week for 30 days to win release from 'lock down', where four inmates share an 8ft by 10ft cell. The women seem reconciled, almost cheerful. Several

had bought new lipstick for the television cameras. They emerged chanting a marching song that was more ironic than mournful: *We go to work so we don't get fat. Wear orange suits and orange hats. Big wide belts and shiny boots. People say that we look cute.* The composer and unofficial leader of the gang, Princess Richardson, aged 42, said: "I don't know whether it's inhumane. We knew about this when we got jail — everyone knows about Sheriff Joe. They have to keep us in chains for security, and I accept that." Richardson, like the others, is serving a maximum of one year, and was originally sentenced for shooting at her abusive husband (she missed), then for violating parole. Unrepentant, she vows: "I'll get him next time." The women's crimes range

from drug offences and prostitution to armed robbery. Dana Stanley, aged 28, a prostitute, was the only one to condemn the chain as the women spoke freely to journalists while Mr Arpaio looked on. "Putting women on a chain gang is wrong. I'm only doing it so I can get back into the main jail. I was put in lock down just for talking to

the men, which is prohibited, but then I don't think prostitution should be a crime anyway," she said. Mr Arpaio claims that chain gangs, first instituted in America in the 17th century, are legally permissible and violate no civil rights, because each inmate "volunteers". But the alternative is to spend 23 hours a day

locked in the tiny cells. Arizona prisons, like many in the United States, are badly overcrowded. Mr Arpaio's solution was to house hundreds of his 6,000 prisoners in old army tents, where they suffer summer temperatures of almost 90C. He banned coffee and tobacco, replaced hot meals with sandwiches, stopped showing films, and

limited television to one set for 900 inmates. He is predictably unpopular inside the prison, but outside gets 90 per cent public approval. "Prison is punishment so let's punish," he declared. Since he was elected to run law and order for Maricopa County's 2.5 million residents in 1992, he has broken new boundaries in unforgiving

penal enforcement, while gaining mostly favourable publicity. His predecessors did not do well: one extracted four false confessions in a multiple murder case; another fiddled expenses on a trip to New Mexico to marry his ninth wife. Mr Arpaio had little to lose. After putting his prisoners in tents, his next act was to form a posse of 2,200 volunteers, 300 of them armed. Civil rights activists feared this bourgeois band of lawyers, business people and corrupt politicians — with minimum training in handling weapons or outlaws — would cause a terrible accident or wrongful killing. But the sheriff's luck has held. One posse member was indicted on 23 counts of property fraud in June, but as he was the Republican state governor, Fife Symington, and the alleged offences happened before Arpaio-power, the sheriff could hardly be

blamed. Mr Symington has turned in his six-shooter and resigned from the posse (but not the governorship). The sheriff introduced chain gangs last year for men, following such models of penal enlightenment as Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, although they have modified or abandoned their programmes. But the final indictment should be that the Arpaio approach to recidivism has not worked. No evidence has emerged that criminals have been reformed to avoid "Tent City". Crime figures in Arizona — excluding those which are drug-related — mirror similar states. But few complain. The sheriff produces great publicity. On Tuesday the Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole, dropped by to announce that the sheriff's experiment amounted to "my kind of jail". The sheriff's popularity rose yet another point.

## Florida shows mercy to grandfather who spent 44 years on run

EDDIE BROWN ran away from a Florida chain gang 44 years ago, afraid for his life. Now at the age of 64, with 27 grandchildren, he can stop looking over his shoulder. Florida no longer wants him back in prison. Justice Abraham Gorges of Brooklyn supreme court is expected to dismiss the case against him. "I feel, Lord have mercy, what a burden off my back.

It's just tremendous to be free," said Mr Brown. Scott Buell, his lawyer, proclaimed: "It's a great day for justice." Mr Brown fled a chain gang in Zephyrhills after serving six months of a five-year sentence for robbing a Miami shop of \$120 (£80) in 1952. He is black, and said he ran away because a white guard had threatened him and he feared he would be killed.

Making his way to New York five years later, he took jobs that did not require background checks, like scrubbing floors and shining shoes. While living in Brooklyn last year, his past caught up with him. After a minor traffic accident police checked his licence, found a warrant for the robbery and arrested him. Florida issued an extradition order, but agreed last week

to stop the proceedings. "Somewhere along the way, common sense must prevail," said Dexter Douglas, the Florida governor's general counsel. Mr Brown, who suffers from high blood pressure, diabetes and heart trouble, feared prison would kill him. "I just told my wife, 'If I have to go back, make sure the insurance is all paid up.' I told her to come pick up my body." — AP.

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## Why Clinton could lose by winning in the parallel race for Congress

Los Angeles 96  
Martin Walker in Washington

BILL CLINTON is so far ahead in the presidential race that the focus is shifting to the Democratic Party's chances of regaining control of Congress, which they lost two years ago to Newt Gingrich's surging Republican revolution. The retreat of that Republican tide brings a Democratic Congress, could revitalise Mr Clinton's aborted agenda of domestic reforms — from health care to college grants and job training programmes. But it could also pave the way for a divisive battle for the Clinton inheritance in the contest for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000. On one side stands Mr Clinton's centrist "New Democrat" project, based in the dominant new political geography of the middle-class suburbs, and represented by Vice-President Al Gore. On the other is the traditional Democratic Party of trade protection, labour unions, the urban base and the New Deal, represented by the congressional leader, Dick Gephardt. Mr Clinton may lose by winning. The stronger the Democratic majority in Congress, the better the chances of Mr Gephardt and the liberals — still suspicious of the president's readiness to compromise with the Republicans on balancing the budget and welfare reform — taking the party back to its roots. There is much at stake in the 435 House and 33 Senate races this November. The majority party in each chamber wins the crucial chairmanship and the majority of seats on all the committees. It selects the House Speaker and Senate majority leader, who have almost complete control of the legislative agenda. The newly popular "generic poll" by Gallup, which asks how people will vote in the congressional race, shows the Democrats ahead 52-42. This margin has held steady since



A shaken but unharmed Bob Dole, who fell off when leaning against a dummy railing on a campaign platform in Chico, California. A photographer broke the fall of the Republican candidate, who joked he had "won a third Purple Heart" and "at least I fell into good company" when he resumed his attack on "Hollywood values". PHOTOGRAPH: ROCK WALKER

last month's Democratic convention in Chicago. The Democrats need to win 19 seats in the House of Representatives and three in the Senate to recover their majority, and are counting on Mr Clinton's coast-tails to carry them to the target. Although many Democrats distanced themselves from the president two years ago, when he was at his political nadir, they are clamouring for him to campaign in their districts. But the Republicans are significantly ahead in fund-raising. The national Republican campaign committee raised \$63 million (£40 million) in the first half of this year — three times more than its Democratic equivalent. They also have the ostensible advantage of incumbency, although many of their 73 freshmen — who won their seats two years ago — are sitting on perilously small majorities. The last two occasions the Republicans recaptured the

House, in 1946 and 1952, they lost control two years later — a pattern the Democrats are convinced they can repeat. But the long-term trend of the south and west becoming ever more solidly conservative favours the Republicans, as another wave of 20 veteran Democrats retire. In Texas alone, the Republicans have a strong chance of picking up six seats from retiring Democrats. Given such losses, the Democrats will have to win at least 30 seats to be sure of even a razor-thin majority in the House. In the Senate, where they are in danger of losing the Massachusetts seat of the low-key John Kerry to the popular liberal Republican governor William Weld, the task may be even harder. The Democrats will have to fight hard to retain the seats vacated by the retiring senators Sam Nunn in Georgia and Bill Bradley in New Jersey. They look likely to lose the Alabama seat of the retir-

ing Howell Heflin and David Pryor's seat in Arkansas, where the Democratic Party has been demoralised by the conviction for fraud of Governor Jim Guy Tucker. But the Republicans could have trouble holding the seats of the venerable rightwing Senator Strom Thurmond, aged 96, of South Carolina, and Senator Jesse Helms, aged 75, of North Carolina. The Democrats also have a strong chance of winning Republican Senate seats in New Hampshire and Wyoming. The Republicans are retreating fast from any association with Mr Gingrich's now-discredited Contract with America, which helped them win two years ago. But they are likely to retain enough seats to at least slow any ambitious Democratic legislative agenda, while the Democrats launch an internal battle for the Clinton succession.

The Guardian  
Screen

A

مركز الامم المتحدة



# A new film looks set to reignite the battle of the sexes, writes Ian Katz in New York

## Screen revenge for scorned wives

**A**MERICAN men are braced for a bruising new round in the battle of the sexes as a film about abandoned first wives arrives in cinemas today.

Billed as a revenge flick for mistreated middle-aged women, *First Wives Club* is the story of three friends who set out to exact revenge on the wealthy husbands who left them for younger women.

It has become a favourite subject of discussion at Manhattan dinner parties, where details of New York's most expensive divorces are followed as closely as the latest fashions from Paris or Milan.

Hollywood executives hope *First Wives Club* will replicate the box-office success of *Waiting to Exhale*, which touched a nerve with millions of black women.

Wealthy divorcees who have seen the film at women-only screenings held by the New York Times have been delighted by its "don't get mad, get even" message.

"This will empower women," said Angela Rich, the ex-wife of Hollywood producer Lee Rich.

Based on the best-selling 1992 novel by Olivia Goldsmith, *First Wives Club* stars Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn and Bette Midler as Annie, Elise and Brenda, college classmates who band together after each is abandoned by her successful husband.

Hawn's character is an ageing Hollywood star who helps her husband become a powerful producer, only to lose him to a young bimbo played by Elizabeth Berkley.

Midler plays a cash-strapped wise-cracker, and Keaton an insecure self-help enthusiast.

Together they hatch Operation Hell's Fury, a scheme to get even with their ex-husbands, and then relaunch their own lives.

Midler says the film's message is "about people being valuable even if they're older; that people get older and maybe don't look the same but they shouldn't be thrown away, because they have value".

Several divorcees who have seen the film say it captures the feelings of worthlessness, anger and betrayal they experienced.



Don't get mad, get even... Bette Midler (right), Goldie Hawn (above, top) and Diane Keaton (above) star in *First Wives Club*, a revenge flick for mistreated middle-aged women, which opens in New York today



"It's all about me," said Susan Waxler, whose first husband married a woman 10 years younger than her. "My reaction was, what can I do to make myself look young again?"

The film has received an endorsement from New York's most visible first wife, Ivana Trump. "I identify because it happened to me," said the Czech-born former Olympic skier who was married to the property developer Donald Trump for 14 years.

"In the high-profile divorces, the man, of course, tries to get out of it as easy as possible and he will use any weapon he can. Now I say you don't need necessarily to bring your husband's wallet to the dry-cleaner — but get at least half. Get what you deserve."

Raoul Felder, a New York divorce lawyer, expects the film to create a surge of sympathy for abandoned first wives. "The ultimate victims are going to be the ex-first husbands," he said. He said the behaviour of first wives after divorce typically fits into one of two patterns. "There are first wives who are destructive inwardly and never get on with their own lives, and there are women who are destructive outwardly, who are determined to disrupt the lives of their ex-husband by bringing constant legal proceedings and using children as spies."

The film's liberating message is underlined by cameo performances by feminists such as Gloria Steinem and Bella Abzug. Although the husbands in the film, played by Stephen Collins, Victor Garber and Dan Hedaya, are portrayed as selfish, superficial and callous, Hawn insists the film is not anti-men.

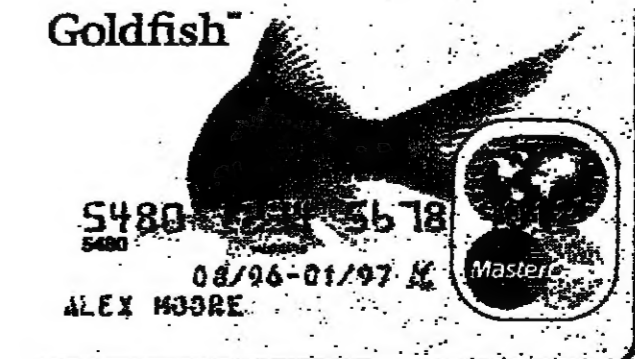
"It's about a cross-section of society, but it's certainly no blanket statement about men. I love men."

All three lead actresses in *First Wives Club* are over 50. Asked if he had been pressed to cast younger actresses, the producer, Scott Rudin, said he had not. "That's the *Second Wives Club*."

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### News in brief

#### Mengele drugs inquiry opens

The Spanish government said yesterday that it had ordered Judge Baltasar Garçon to investigate allegations that intelligence agents experimented on vagrants with drugs in the so-called Operation Mengele.

The daily El Mundo, quoting files and agents of the military intelligence agency Cesid, reported that agents had kidnaped three vagrants, one of whom died, to test an aesthetic meant for use against Basque separatist guerrillas. — Reuter.

#### Turkish aid freeze

The European Parliament yesterday demanded an immediate freeze of European Union aid to Turkey, worth hundreds of millions of pounds. — Reuter.

#### Losing control

A Swissair pilot passed out at the controls of a jumbo jet, forcing the plane to make an emergency landing in Helsinki. — Reuter.

#### Settlers advance

Jewish settlers briefly occupied an East Jerusalem house yesterday which they said they had bought from its Arab owners, igniting fresh violence. Guards hired by the Ateret Cohanim settlement group broke into the house at dawn. — Reuter.

#### Legless 'robber'

A legless man in a wheelchair tried to rob a bank in Frankfurt armed with a stick. He was overwhelmed by customers after assaulting a woman. — Reuter.

#### Panda zones

China is to set up 19 more panda protection zones as part of a drive to save the endangered species from extinction. — Reuter.

#### General accused

China's authorities have blocked the promotion of General Gu Cong after he was accused of sexual harassment by a woman soldier, Chinese sources said. — Reuter.

#### Space link-up

The American astronaut Shannon Lucid threw her arms around colleagues arriving in the space shuttle Atlantis yesterday to end her six months in the Russian space station Mir. — AP

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## Party before country

Major cannot rule with the Tories under siege

INSIDE the space of a week, the two great political questions of our time have been laid starkly before us yet again. The first is whether the Labour Party wants power enough to accept Tony Blair's root-and-branch rewriting of its aims and values; the answer to that is "Yes, at least for the moment". The second, which exploded with renewed force yesterday, is whether the Conservative Party can achieve a sufficient consensus on Europe to give it a chance of deserving to govern once again. The answer to that one, on yesterday's evidence, is "Not yet".

The idea that there has been, or could be a Conservative truce on Europe is fanciful. It would certainly be desirable from a national point of view, but there is not the slightest sign of it. For one thing, outside events — like the timetable of European summits and the shameless, EMU-motivated fiddling of the figures in the French Budget this week — constantly work against any such aim. For another, this is a party in disequilibrium, which cannot simply decree itself to be at peace, however much it might wish it. The political calendar — the party conference, the election, the leadership question — constantly dictates the renewed taking of positions.

Malcolm Rifkind didn't have to make a speech which has been widely asserted to be against the single currency this week. But he did it because he is thinking about the leadership if and when John Major goes. The six pro-European Tory grandees didn't have to take their stand against any rejection of the single currency this week. But they did so because they know what the Europhobes have got planned for the party conference — where they aim to bounce the party into an earlier referendum than the Government wants, or even into outright rejection. Even the Europhobes could have kept quiet this

week too, except for the fact that they are bent on victory at Bournemouth and on capturing the party from Mr Major within the next 12 months.

Above all, the Government did not have to stir events over Europe this week. Yet it did so, especially over beef, because Mr Major recognises the impossibility of standing still, whether on the BSE or EMU. BSE, you and he may have thought, had been settled at Florence. But nothing can be settled where the European question is concerned because the Europhobes are not interested in settlements. They want a beef war as well as their demands on the single currency. So Mr Major and Douglas Hogg have reopened the deal they struck at Florence, in another vain hope that by throwing scraps to the pursuing dogs, the pack will lose its appetite. Unfortunately for Mr Major, this appeasement only encourages the Europhobes to up their demands.

This is the context in which the massively belated heavyweight counter-attack on behalf of the Cabinet from the Grandee Six, as well as Sir Edward Heath's fresh blast last night, have to be seen. If Douglas Hurd means what he said at lunchtime yesterday, that the Tory pro-Europeans "are no longer going to shut up" then this is going to be a stormy autumn.

But what is the alternative? The Conservatives are in a continuing state of internal siege. The pro-Europeans, and even the Euro-pragmatists, can no longer pretend that masterly inactivity will guarantee that Britain stays in the fast changing European arena. From their point of view, internal party conflict is the lesser of two evils. The tragedy for the rest of us is that, all the while, whether over beef or the currency, this country's European policy and influence are daily being sacrificed on the altar of John Major's attempts to manage his destabilised party.

## Claiming the high moral ground

Whatever politicians contrive, it's never the Donne thing

IT IS ENCOURAGING to discover that John Major wants to fight the next election on the high moral ground. It would be even more encouraging were there any general agreement about where this ground is to be found. This is not somewhere like Lithuania or Leatherhead, where locations and boundaries are plotted in all respectable maps. The high moral ground as defined by politicians, unhappily, tends to mean little more than the ground they find it convenient to occupy.

On John Major's definition, the heart of the high moral ground is individuals' freedom to do as they choose. So cutting the share of national wealth that goes to the state is a moral action. Cutting the size of government to give people more scope to make their own choices, bringing down taxes, extending deregulation — all these cherished Conservative tenets belong, by happy coincidence, on the high moral ground too. Others would draw their maps differently. For them, the high moral ground entails a commitment to treating all sections of our society equitably and decently, even if that sometimes implies that the prosperous may have to contribute more. Take the lines of John Donne: "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or thine own were"; these, for them, are an indispensable part of any worthwhile delin-

ation of the high moral ground — not merely the pretty conceit of a long-dead poet.

Short of a kind of Ordinance Survey of Ethics, no consensus will ever exist on the whereabouts of this territory. So if politicians are genuinely eager to set up camp on it, they might usefully start with more modest and practical tests. They might, for example, commit themselves not knowingly to tell lies about their opponents. Tony Blair is not a devil with staring red eyes. Michael Howard, even at Tory conferences, is not the reincarnation of Judge Jeffreys. Paddy Ashdown is not some kind of juvenile anarchist with secret designs on the monarchy or the liberalisation of banned drugs. There are even things to be said for Dr Brian Mahwinney. Let them also pledge to cost their opponents' promises on the basis of arithmetic which commands at least a measure of credibility with non-partisan observers. Let them promise not to pretend through the coming election campaign that issues like Europe and Northern Ireland are best left undiscussed — a pretence they maintained throughout the 1992 campaign. Let them turn aside from character assassination, and condemn it when it occurs in newspapers which support them. Should they make and maintain such resolutions, and others like them, we may begin to believe that their dedication to the high moral ground is real, and not just contrived for PR purposes. Otherwise: certainly not.

## Another one lost to the SFO

The answer? Specialist tribunals for complex cases

WHICH is worse: a long, drawn-out, 18-month complex fraud trial that exhausts jury, judge and the criminal justice process; or simpler, shorter and more focused prosecutions requiring defendants to face not one but two successive trials? The judiciary made its view clear after a marathon fraud case in the early 1990s that it did not want a repeat performance. Multiple charges and multiple defendants must be avoided. Accordingly, the prosecution severed and chopped up the Maxwell indictments into two separate parcels only for the jury to reject the first in January and the judge the second yesterday. In the words of Mr Justice Buckley, the presiding high court judge, the trial was sending out the wrong signal, namely that "the authorities have not accepted the verdict of a jury". Faced, as he saw it, with "an affront to fair play and decency", justice required a stay to the proceedings.

Once more the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and the jury system is under scrutiny. Yet the arguments which led to the creation of the SFO still stand. Only the naive — and fraudsters — could want the work handed over to the criminal prosecution service. Complex fraud requires specialist teams. City investigators yesterday were specialising about the resurrection of specialist juries. But returning to a medieval institution — fishmongers trying people who sold bad fish — is not a solution. Remember, it was the judge who threw out this latest prosecution. Moreover, he did so with an inappropriate reference to the suffering of Kevin Maxwell's wife. He should have been more circumspect. If the plight of families was weighed, few suspects would ever go to trial. The SFO was set up by the Roskill committee, which also wanted specialist tribunals instead of juries. In reality, Roskill was right.



## Letters to the Editor

### Pension scheming

DAVID Brindle (An acid test for Labour, September 17) is quite right. Pension reform is now a key issue for Labour. The thousands of pensioners who marched through London last weekend were not on their own. There were many more not-yet-pensioners only too well aware that their own retirement could find them in even greater difficulty.

That is why Paul Flynn's press conference was packed, why Barbara Castle and Peter Townsend's pamphlet is a best-seller, and why Labour will have to give more serious thought to the issue than it has so far. It is a concern not confined to today's pensioners but tomorrow's also. David Hughes, 42 Langroyd Road, London SW17 7PL.

THE reason Labour is not proposing to restore the pensions earnings link is because pensioners themselves have rejected the idea. Three times at general elections Labour has offered to restore the indexing of pensions and three times, as your Leader (September 13) acknowledges, pensioners have voted Tory by a large majority.

Would it not be perverse of Labour to repeat the offer when, because of the tax implications, the price would be

a fifth Tory term? It is not the Labour Party that has "ditched" pensioners but rather pensioners who have cut themselves adrift by voting on the basis of habit rather than published policy. Not even the Guardian can blame Labour for that. Name and address supplied.

THE party's document Security in Retirement does not say that Labour would continue the Tory policy of price-indexing the basic pension. It does say that Labour "would not reduce this commitment", and that the basic pension "must play a role" in "enabling pensioners to share fairly in rising national prosperity". To play such a role, the basic pension would obviously have to increase faster than prices.

Yet how much faster? Security in Retirement leaves that to be decided after the election. The party should have the courage to say so now. Tony Lysons, 83 Grove Park, London SE5 8LE.

### More on the frantic search for a little peace and quiet

RESPONSES to the admirable review by Henry Porter of growing pressures on the countryside (Crowded out, September 16) fail to recognise that its future health is intimately related to that of our towns and cities.

What we have seen over recent years is the continued loss of countryside to urban development over 11,000 hectares each year — and rising traffic levels as people and jobs move out of urban areas. To tackle these pressures we need to improve the quality of our towns and cities by encouraging investment and redevelopment at the same time as safeguarding the countryside. This should not mean town cramming. Large areas of derelict and underused land and buildings exist in many urban areas and we can get much more out of the housing that has already been built.

Yet we will achieve little if we continue to plan on the basis of an extrapolation of past, unsustainable trends. New planning which seeks to change these trends through better protection for greenfield sites and positive investment in our urban areas is vital for the health of both town and country. Neil Sinden, Assistant Secretary, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Warwick House, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP.

has a path on the verge. It leads to one house, a letter box and a small redundant Norman church.

The local authority has a duty to maintain paths, and let it not be said that it should fail. For 100 yards a brand new Tarmac path 1.2m wide (an EU standard path to cater for wheelchairs) gleams along the side of the lane. But worse, to keep in a strip of grass, the Highways Department has deep-kerb-lined the path. It looks like Brookside.

This little bit of countryside is a touch less remote and leafy, the cowpats which once flourished here, will have gone, as will the amenities, together with a medieval boundary stone that was in the way. It cost around £5,000.

This is not a comment about mobility, Europe or road safety. But it is a comment on priorities. If we do not readdress them, especially at local level, Henry Porter's nightmare will creep closer. Charles & Caroline Kenyon, Beech House, Kingbury, Market Rasen, Lincs LN8 3PF.

HENRY PORTER says that people have the right to tear around the Lake District in a motorboat. In fact, powerboats are allowed on just one of our many lakes, and even there you will generally find the landscape connected "with the quiet of the sky", to quote a former resident. Chris Collier, Chief Executive, Cumbria Tourist Board, Ashleigh, Holly Road, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 2AQ.

LAST summer I was in Yosemite, California, climbing the track beside the Falls and I stopped for a rest at a viewpoint about two-thirds up the climb. There, overlooking the stupendous view, someone yattering into a mobile phone, a really great view, mar, you'd hardly believe it, so quiet too...

On Saturday I was walking in the Lake District and sat down on top of Harrison Stickle, in the Langdales, for lunch. A few other people were also within 30 metres of us. Then, once again, came the familiar wattle of a mobile phone. Could anyone suggest what could be done about these things? Michael Pidd, 4 Prospect Drive, Hest Bank, Lancaster LA2 6EX.

INCREASINGLY pernicious is the noise from light aircraft, because these can dump their pollution where so far the ordinary polluter cannot reach. This summer — from places as far apart as the Quantocks, the Northern Highlands, the Cotswolds, the little town of Dorchester-on-Thames — people have suffered their incessant buzz like that of some unwelcome fly.

If working-class youths on motor-bikes contaminated neighbourhoods like these, the police would soon see them off. Yet these yuppy joyriders of the sky contaminate the rural tranquility of thousands below without any kind of legislation to stop them. C V Jones, 27 Weymouth Court, Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 6SH.

HENRY Porter's plea to revalue the countryside was read to the background noise of the Highways Department JCB cementing our very own little tragedy. This remote and leafy lane

## New "Labour"

ON Monday's Radio 4 Today programme, Tony Blair said that the word "socialism" was no longer appropriate for New Labour. On the same day a Christian Socialist talking on Stop the Week said that Tony Blair has identified himself as a Christian Socialist. Does this mean that in future New Labour will be known as the Christian Party? (Dr) Dorothy Rowe, 40 Highbury Grove, London N5 2AG.

WHY doesn't Kim Howells suggest humbly phasing out the word "Labour" in his party's name? Quite clearly, if no longer has any relevance, then his party would then be free to adopt the obvious choice: New Conservatives. (Dr) R F Carter, 26 Stanbridge Road, London SW15 1DX.

THE offensive word "Labour" is reminiscent of cloth caps, whippets and other accessories that are, moreover, in the context of birth, suggestive of pain and discomfort. My friend Clive, who drives a Volvo and is something in the City, says he and his wife would never vote for a party of that name. Mr Blair should just call his organisation "The Party, because the word "party" immediately conveys a feel-good factor and suggests nice things like seafood restaurants, white wine and lobster, followed, shortly after, by wobbly jelly. John Sheeran, 3 Southfield Rise, Cheltenham.

HOW about "The Every-thing to all People Party"? Don Newman, 377 Commonside Estate, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HF.

I'VE thought for a while now that there was something eerily familiar about the case of T Blair and the quondam Labour Party, but I couldn't quite place it. The headline on Martin Kettle's piece on September 13 (He regards the party he leads as a failure) reminded me. Of course: if the Labour Party is not worthy of Tony Blair, Tony Blair will have to elect a new party. W L Webb, 94 Park Hill, London SW4 9PB.



IN its quest for aids to forgetting Labour, the party should consider calling itself "New Label". As a brand name, New Label Party sounds sufficiently like the old product to retain traditional consumers, while suggesting the local and lite image that is so essential in this new land of lost content. Patrick Kinnersly, West Wallow, Romsey, Hants SO51 6BY.

IF Tony Blair is a Liberal (September 18) then I am a doughnut. Phil Rimmer, Chair, Liberal Party Policy Committee, 2 Elmgreen Close, Church Street North, London E15 4BS.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

## Guerrilla war against greens

ANDREW Rowell's excellent article (Armies of the right, Society, September 18) paints the picture of the resistance to environmentalism in a far more honest way than other commentators who are starting to notice that reactionaries are rising up.

For some such commentators, environmentalism is dead. If that's the case, why the furore amid the armed ranks catalogued by Rowell? If the movement has failed, just why are so many right-wing organisations, from governments to multinationals, declaring war on those who would dare to fetter free trade?

Aha! A global conspiracy? Or am I just being paranoid? There is not so much a grassroots backlash as an orchestrated attempt by reactionaries to legitimise what it is they have always taken for granted — their previously untouchable policies of irreversible destruction.

Green activists should take heart from the fact that they have been recognised. If not, why would the forces of the

right operate by stealth, secret funding and cartels-style control of so-called "green industry" committees? Anita Roddick, Chief executive, The Body Shop, Watersmead, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6LS.

## Broad canvas

THE point of our new first-floor galleries is precisely to show more portraits than we could previously, and better (September 18). In particular, we have brought out a great number of portrait busts from storage, and have supplemented the paintings with cases to show drawings and photographs. Ruskin is missing partly because the greatest portrait of Ruskin by Millais is in private hands. Mrs Gaskell is in our displays at Bodlewyddan Castle. Charles Saumarez Smith, Director, National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2H 0HE.

## A good sport

YOU merit a red card for claiming that the Guardian is poised to "blow the whistle" on television sports events (Home news, September 17). BBC Television has substantially increased its investment in sports coverage in the last two years. This has led to the renewal of several long-term contracts from the Olympics, Open championship and Grand National to the World Athletics Championships, the Football World Cup and Commonwealth Games in 1996 and Euro 2000.

This makes plain that the BBC will remain a major player in televised sport into the next century. Yes, the cost of sports rights is escalating and there are tough decisions to make on delivering value for money to viewers on a flat licence-fee income. But the quality and appeal of BBC sports coverage remain hugely valued by the British public and by most sports bodies and administrators. Will Wyatt, Chief Executive, Broadcast, BBC, Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

## A Country Diary

NORTHERLAND: Summer is retreating. We now have a source of both field mushrooms and brambles within walking distance of the house, although meeting friends on the prowl I am evasive as to the whereabouts of the fungi. Autumn walks are a treat among the purples and gold of late summer, knapweed a foil for small greenish-white butterflies and the fading ranks of meadow sweet in the ditches. I love the cloying scent of wild honeysuckle in the air. This morning was spent decorating our 13th century church for Harvest Festival. Skillful hands transformed the motley profusion of flowers and foliage weeping from plastic buckets into attractive displays on stands, statuary, cornice and colonnade. We work hard but there is a good deal of crack as well. Soon the mechanical hedge cutters will be snarling up our narrow country lanes. They are an economic necessity for keeping the place tidy but alarming to meet when one is astride a horse and they have

put paid to some of my favourite blackberry hedge-rows. A cyclist told me that he suffered punctures through thorns and spears left on the highway by these machines but most contractors are considerate and try to catch the cuttings in the box provided. A local ornithological group invited me to join them cleaning nest boxes in the Lyne Valley. This is a study area for various species: tawny owl, merlin, great and blue tit, pied flycatcher, sparrow hawk and goosander. We listen for singing cock birds because our leader tells us that every vocal male means a pair. Oak leaves, dead grass, woodruff and tiny crustacean bits which have been discarded from consumed insects had to be cleared from the boxes and we used torches to inspect our housekeeping efforts. In one box which had been vacated by a tawny owl, a brown long-eared bat had taken up residence. We could actually see the female hanging, one infant attached. VERONICA HEATH

مكاتب التحرير



The Guardian Friday September 20 1996

Diary Matthew Norman

RIVAL has emerged to Harold Brooks-Baker, purveyor of the "Burke's World Book of..." series. He is HRH Prince Kevin of the Principality of Hutt River Province...

Private lives and public snapshots

Commentary Peter Preston

TAKE two loving couples in swimsuits, a millionaire's yacht on a steamy French Riviera day, one angry Prime Minister's wife...

ously private. Proposition Three: "I think we could make a start with cameras, and the fact that they can take a photograph of someone obviously in their house or in their garden, which is clearly private property..."

with his rolling acres; the ordinary bloke with his potting shed patch. What kind of "right" was that? Mrs Major's problem is similarly vexing...

They just want to be left alone, and have done nothing to deserve otherwise

same path, and grapple with the selfsame problems. Barristers, well-paid to endure such fresh challenges, are naturally enthusiastic to try...

Envy, stupidity and malice in Literary London



Bel Littlejohn

WHAT was it that Swift once said? Forgive, but when I wrote my new novel, Fluffy the Dolphin...

ATTEMPTS to contact the psychic Sir Bernard Ingham (soon to be confirmed, we hope, as Diary astrologer) consistently fail...

NOE! Magazine, Bran-leeth's Brainstorm is better than ever. This week, the Chester MP surpasses himself with a feature called Think Sideways...

In the Spector, wine waiter Taki-George tries to ingratiate himself with an old employer. Having poured champagne at Jemima Khan's wedding...

SENSATIONAL news from Millbank: Oofy Wegg-Frosser has smashed his own rapid rebuttal world record. After the Hartlepool MP was pictured in a newspaper arriving for a party...

WOMAN has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon after an incident on an interstate highway in Florida. Montrose Herbert told police that she fired her handgun when upset by a gesture from Joshua Lucas...

THIS UNCERTAINTY IS UPSETTING MY WIFE DEADENDWAY. Finally have dawned on the majority of political commentators. The move away from socialism, started by Neil Kinnock, has continued unabated with Tony Blair...



Peter Clarke

Bye bye S-word

Whatever Tony Blair has become he is certainly no Liberal, argues Alex Carlile. Otherwise he would have a philosophy, not just an agenda

THE notion that the Labour Party, under Tony Blair, is no longer socialist party appears finally to have dawned on the majority of political commentators. The move away from socialism, started by Neil Kinnock, has continued unabated with Tony Blair...

would "humanely kill off" its links with the trade unions and socialism (though how one kills off a social and economic theory is beyond me) should have put paid to them. It's officially leaked - socialism is dead.

However, with socialism still not cold in the ground, a mad scramble has ensued to find a new label to pin to Tony Blair and the new Labour Party. Alas, many commentators have fallen into the predictable trap of calling him a Liberal. It is a crude analysis based on nothing more than a belief that, as the good ship Labour moves starboard, its next port of call must surely be Liberalism.



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10 OBITUARIES

Rose Williams

Tennessee's lost sister

WHATEVER IT was about her death certificate, it is tempting to think that Rose Williams died 53 years ago...



She sent Tennessee (above) a message, as accurate as it was disturbing: 'Tell Tom I love him; he stole my heart away in the dark ages'

Tennessee Williams and his sister were close friends as children, entering into a conspiracy of glass animals kept in her room...

She found consolation in a menagerie of glass animals kept in her room, itself painted white to keep out the dark...

Tennessee went on to success - and failure; his sister stayed frozen in time. Yet their relationship somehow survived it all...

To him she was "the greatest person I have known", a "dear little sister" who "deserves a crown in heaven"...

Rose moved in and out of lucidity. She thought herself the Queen of England and believed she had given birth, yet she could read menus in French...

Rose has achieved a kind of immortality through his writing, as has he, and in that sense both have cheated the on-rush of time they so feared...



Rose Williams at the sanatorium with her dog, Jiggs

moment of need. He was not so much plundering her life for material as paying homage to a woman with whom he associated himself so completely...

She was not, however, a character in a play but a woman, damaged, in recoil from a world she saw as threatening, but living on with that odd blend of oblivion and knowledge...

Christopher Bigsby

Joe Elsby Martin

Champion of the heavyweights

IN THE LIFE stories of many great personalities, there is someone who first inspired and tutored them...



The collaboration with Ali (above) began one rainy night in 1954, when the skinny 12-year-old came to Martin crying that his bike had been stolen



A labour of love... Joe Elsby Martin coaching young Tanzanians

known athlete in the world. Martin soon recognised the traits in Clay that would carry him to immortality in the squared ring...

He thought much of him in his first year. About a year later, though, you could see that the little smart Alec - I mean, he's always been sassy - had a lot of potential...

Playthell Benjamin

LES BURNS, who has died aged 53, became chairman of the Barrow-in-Furness leisure services committee at a time when a national newspaper had labelled the borough a cultural desert...

Through Burns, the committee backed sell-out Halle Orchestra concerts which brought to a transport warehouse music never performed in the area...

John Hutton

Les Burns

LES BURNS, who has died aged 53, became chairman of the Barrow-in-Furness leisure services committee at a time when a national newspaper had labelled the borough a cultural desert...

Through Burns, the committee backed sell-out Halle Orchestra concerts which brought to a transport warehouse music never performed in the area...

John Hutton

Jackdaw



Rocked souls

"I WAS following the Lord wholeheartedly until we switched churches and I was invited to the new youth group. I had a conviction against rock music, but as I was surrounded by it, my beliefs were corrupted...

young Christian. It made it easy for me to get into regular rock music. When I finally submitted to God and got the rock music out of my life, I was able to see the double standard that is lived out by 'Christian rock' musicians...

Rocked souls

"I WAS following the Lord wholeheartedly until we switched churches and I was invited to the new youth group. I had a conviction against rock music, but as I was surrounded by it, my beliefs were corrupted...

"Christian rock" has hindered my life because the only difference between 'Christian rock' and secular rock is the words. The beat, rhythm, and the melody are not different; they are the same...

Bird control

BERLIN has too many pigeons, so Karl Rademacher came up with the obvious answer: birth control pills for female pigeons...

Bird games

A CORNISH council is using high-powered water pistols to scare off scavenging gulls.

Carriek Council's head of environmental health, John Hewitt, said the move followed a suggestion that water weapons discouraged cars and dogs and might also be effective on gulls...

Bird control

BERLIN has too many pigeons, so Karl Rademacher came up with the obvious answer: birth control pills for female pigeons...

Bird games

A CORNISH council is using high-powered water pistols to scare off scavenging gulls.

months to prevent them conceiving and expects his pill will cut Berlin's pigeon numbers by half. In the Kreuzberg area alone there are over 6000 pigeons...

Bird control

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Bird games

A CORNISH council is using high-powered water pistols to scare off scavenging gulls.

Reagan and realise he's an impersonator.

Oh, my God, he's left me in a mental institution with all my baby stuff. So I go running outside and I see four rows of women naked from the waist down praying to Buddha. I go, 'Excuse me, is there any way I can get a cab here?'

Pam's insight

I DREAMT that Tommy was taking me to Ronald Reagan's birthday party. We're all dressed up and pack all the baby things into the truck. When we get there we get everything out of the truck and there's Ronald Reagan and there's four rows of kids, like four by four. There's a poolie in every row spaced between the kids, on the diagonal. And they were all line dancing. I'm sitting there watching the entertainment, and Tommy goes, 'I'll be right back. I'm gonna find a girl that looks like you.'

the left, so I think women can't get a cab today.' So I go inside and there's Anna Nicole on an TV. I go, 'Do you need me to break you out of here?' And she goes, 'I can't. I'm a ward of the state.'

Cat control

WAVE TO THE CATS Note: If there are no cats in the room, your only audience

may be Paul. Yes, indeed, you can control a fully functional robotic hand. Provided that you believe that the only function for hands is waving. This high quality hand replica was made with the finest of posterboard. It is mounted on a hobby servo motor. You can select one of four different sizes of waves.

Death Notices

ALLEN, On September 19th, suddenly, Steven of Chichester, aged 52, formerly St Mary's Church, Clebury, died. Family flowers. Donations for Branch Heart Fund, Clebury, to the order of Rev. Canon Burton-Fild's wife, Clebury, Mortimer, 01298 27020.

Emily Sheffield

The price is... OFT 'Rising u at sales... Biggest store raises hue and cry... Sumitomo copper ri bill up by...



Guardian  
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Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## OFT acts on pension fiasco

### 'Rising unease' at sales methods

**Richard Miles**  
**T**HE OFFICE of Fair Trading instituted a far-reaching inquiry into personal pensions yesterday, as the industry continues to drag its heels over compensating people who were hoodwinked into leaving their company pension schemes.

The inquiry will look at the £2 billion mis-selling scandal, where up to 1.5 million people may have been disadvantaged by taking out a personal pension, and what can be done to boost consumer confidence in the financial services industry.

any mis-selling problems can be minimised. John Bridgeman, director general of the OFT, said: "At a time when consumers are having to become more proactive in the way they provide for their retirement, there is also increasing unease about pensions products and the selling methods employed by the industry."

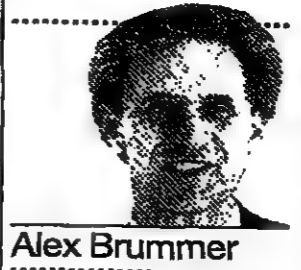
### The 1.5m potential victims

- More than five million people have a personal pension. However, two-thirds of policyholders make no contributions of their own, relying solely on rebates from the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (SERPS).
- More than 10 million people are members of company pension schemes, with the vast majority belonging to financial safety schemes. They can expect to receive two-thirds of their final salary as a retirement income after 25 years of service.
- Some 1.5 million people may have been wrongly advised to switch from a company pension scheme to a personal pension, despite the generally superior benefits and greater security of company schemes.
- Sales of personal pensions dropped by around 20 per cent in 1995 after the debacle was revealed.

tries of other countries. The TUC, which has campaigned vigorously on behalf of its members for speedier redress, welcomed the OFT's inquiry.

## Notebook

### Maxwell's web remains tangled



**Alex Brummer**  
**M**R JUSTICE Buckley's decision not to put Kevin Maxwell, his family and, as importantly, another jury through a second lengthy pension fraud trial does not draw a thick black line under the most colourful financial scandal of the 1990s.

ing impression that it has been run shy. Not only was this more evident than in the case of the prosecution of Baring trader Nick Leeson, when the SFO was quite happy to sit on its hands and let the more summary justice system in Singapore do its stuff.

## Biggest store raises hue and cry

### Pauline Springett sees guests flock to Benetton's new megastore

**T**HE world's largest Benetton store was opened yesterday in London's Oxford Circus by company president Luciano Benetton, with help from a flock of multi-coloured sheep.



To dye for... Luciano Benetton shepherds star attractions to the opening of his company's biggest store

on three floors. Another opens on New York's Fifth Avenue next month, highlighting a move towards larger stores — traditional Benetton outlets have been small, boutique shops.

hibition space, plus DJs and live performances from bands. It will stock the full Benetton and Sisley ranges, children's wear from the Zerotonico and 012 ranges, and a new maternity line, Mamma di Benetton.

slack, his 120 UK shops had shown a 20 per cent rise in sales. Benetton, which was founded in 1965 by the eponymous family, has 7,000 shops in 120 countries. The Benetton group is now much more than a clothing company. The business includes For-

mula One racing, roadside restaurants, hypermarkets, property, merchant banking and sports goods.

The Benetton store are not owned by the company. They operate on what some might describe as a franchising basis but Luciano prefers to call a licensing system.

## Sumitomo's copper rigging bill up by 50pc

### Paul Murphy

**S**UMITOMO Corporation, the Japanese conglomerate whose chief copper trader, Yasuo Hamanaka, rigged the world market in the metal for a decade, admitted yesterday that the bill for the debacle has risen by almost half to \$2.6 billion (£1.7 billion).

## Societies win £100m tax victory

### Teresa Hunter

**T**HREE leading mortgage groups won a landmark victory yesterday in a 10-year tax battle with the Government which could trigger a £100 million-plus windfall for them.

in the European Court of Human Rights, which typically backs the findings of the commission, and the prospect of a large bill for taxpayers. The court is not expected to hear the case until late next year.

they had been taxed twice because of a late year-end. They said the Revenue's transitional arrangements left them paying both composite rate tax and the new tax for several months of the first year.

rule out further claims. The Leeds, now part of the Halifax, then launched a legal action against the Treasury. This was in turn stifled by the 1992 Finance Act, which outlawed all further proceedings in British courts.

But while Sumitomo's org-

## Hambros and Regent truce over

### Hong Kong group threatens bank with break-up. Paul Murphy reports

**R**EPORTS earlier this month of a truce between Hambros, one of London's few remaining independent merchant banks, and rebel shareholder Regent Pacific appeared premature yesterday after the aggressive Hong Kong-based investment house said it had given Hambros a deadline of today to come up with restructuring proposals.

there are bits of Hambros that would demand a much higher price outside the current Regent's managing director, said yesterday.

Services — possibly yielding another £200 million. Mr Mellon believes shares in Hambros are worth 350p against yesterday's stock market quote of 260 1/2p and Regent's acquisition price of 21 1/2p a share.

## Signet's attempt to offload jewellery chain falls apart

### Pauline Springett

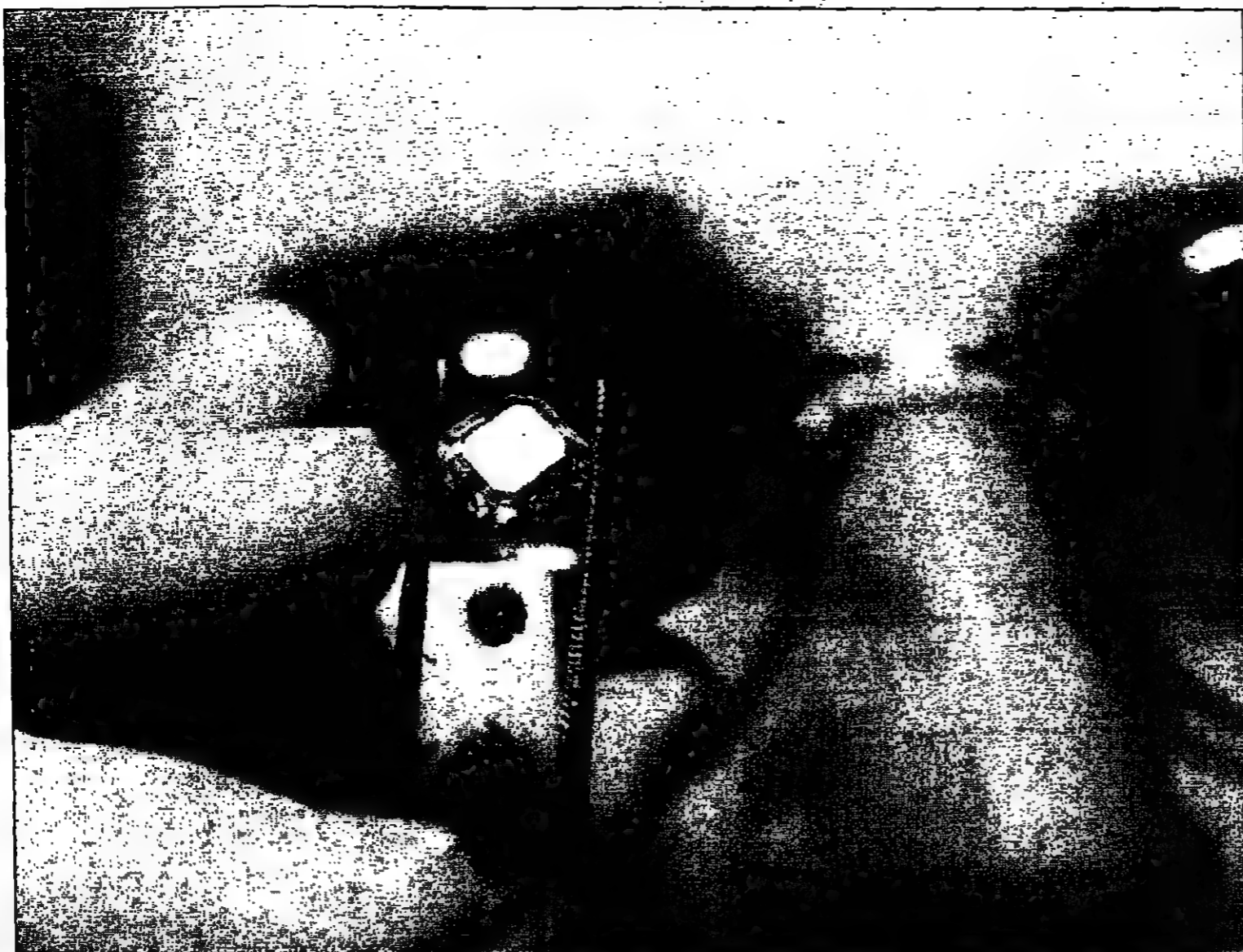
**S**IGNET, the debt-laden jewellery group which used to be known as Ratners, yesterday announced it had abandoned talks on the sale of its British chains H Samuel and Ernest Jones.

leases had proved the insurmountable sticking point. We would have ended up exposing the contingent lease liabilities would have rested with Signet.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,9150	France 7.78	Italy 2.331	Singapore 2.1450
Austria 16.07	Germany 2.2650	Malta 0.5440	South Africa 6.80
Belgium 46.30	Greece 306.00	Netherlands 2.5550	Spain 192.25
Canada 2.0850	Hong Kong 11.76	New Zealand 2.1970	Sweden 10.17
Cyprus 0.7010	India 55.70	Norway 9.5340	Switzerland 1.8710
Denmark 8.84	Ireland 0.9400	Portugal 234.00	Turkey 135.274
Finland 7.00	Israel 4.93	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.5250





BIDDERS for this rare 3.06-carat pink diamond, which is showing a collection of 47 pink diamonds as part of its annual tender, said buyers had to settle in cash within four days of receiving their invoice. For this stone, that could mean up to \$1 million. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

# Factories prices remain immune to shopping spree

Richard Thomas  
Economics Correspondent

PRICES pressures at the factory gate have dipped to a three-year low despite a strong upturn in the housing market and on the high street, the CBI says today. With firms dipping into plentiful stockpiles to meet growing consumer demand, the employers' organisation said expectations of price increases over the summer were at their lowest level since the middle of 1993. Citing its latest snapshot of manufacturing activity, CBI executives welcomed evidence of subdued inflation, which provides further ammunition to Chancellor Kenneth Clarke in his battle with the Bank of England against higher interest rates. "The unchanged trend on price pressures... is likely to exert downward pressure on overall inflation," said associate director Sudhir Junankar. "The good news on inflation followed further evidence earlier this week of a retail boom and strong mortgage lending figures from the Building Societies Association, released yesterday. The BSA said total home loans in August were £3,814 million. While this was down on the £4,113 million recorded in the preceding month, the dip was entirely accounted for by the exit of National & Provincial building society from the market and the usual end-of-summer dip in demand. Seasonally adjusted net lending figures, which include loan repayments, were £1,354 million — a four-year high. Adrian Cole, the BSA's director-general, said "These

latest leading figures provide the clearest indication that the housing market is returning to health."

City analysts said the property market recovery would be sustained until a spring election. Jonathan Loynes, at HSBC James Capel, said: "This is more robust news on the housing market. The next few months should see an increase in housing transactions."

The CBI says the reviving domestic economy — underpinned by rising property prices — is boosting domestic orders, offsetting a fall in overseas demand.

More than a third of the 1,200 companies polled in August said output would rise over the last four months of the year, against 15 per cent predicting a fall in production.

Mr Junankar said the monthly Industrial Trends survey would mark the end of a long decline in the factory sector.

"The improvement in demand is encouraging, although manufacturers continue to be hampered by weak

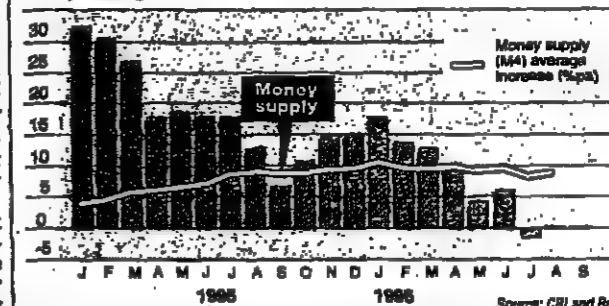
exports. With companies starting to make inroads in their stocks of unsold goods, the output increases predicted in this survey suggest that manufacturing industry is poised to recover."

The only cloud on the economic horizon yesterday was an increase in the Bank of England's broad measure of money supply, M4, which is seen by some economists as an early warning sign on inflation. The Bank said the stock of money in the economy — boosted by Abbey National's takeover of the M&P — rose at a rate of 9.4 per cent over the year to August, up from 9.1 per cent in July. Although most economists said the data would not worry the Chancellor, some warned that the Bank of England would use the growing strength of the money supply to argue for monetary tightening.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at the broker Nikko Europe, said: "The figures are not a cause for concern. But this will not stop the Bank of England highlighting the supposed inflationary threats."

## Money and prices

Percentage balance between factories predicting increase in prices and those predicting price fall



# EU seeks devaluation curb

Government faces storm over move to restrict sterling's room for manoeuvre. John Palmer reports

IN A move certain to infuriate Tory Eurosceptics, Britain will come under pressure this weekend from its European partners to rule out competitive devaluations of the pound when a hard core of countries adopt the single currency. Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will also be pressed by fellow finance ministers, meeting in Dublin, to agree that the UK's exchange rate policy is a matter of "common concern" to the EU as a whole — implying even closer consultation between Britain and its partners over economic policy. Finance ministers are expected to brush aside British doubts and warnings, and relaunch a reformed exchange rate mechanism, taking the euro to other EU currencies outside monetary union (the "outs").

They are determined to keep EMU on track for its planned launch on January 1, 1999, by approving a "stability pact" binding countries to keep their budget deficits under long-term control after the moves to the single currency are complete. "This is a very important meeting for the credibility of the whole EMU operation. We are confident that there will be a political consensus among member states on all these issues," a European Commission official said yesterday. "Once we have the endorsement of the ministers for the stability pact and the new ERM, it will be for the heads of government to give their formal blessing to the whole package at the Dublin summit in December."

Although all EU countries aiming to take part in the

single currency will be expected to join the new ERM, membership will not be mandatory.

This will remove any need for Britain to re-peg sterling inside the new ERM in the run-up to the 1999 decision about which countries qualify to take part in the move to a single currency.

The ministers will also be given a confidential paper by the European Monetary Institute, precursor to the proposed European Central Bank, setting out its ideas on how the new ERM should work and what exchange rate margins should apply between the euro and non-EMU currencies (the "ins" and "outs").

The EMI also wants the proposed European central bank to be given powers to trigger exchange rate adjustments where economic circumstances justify this.

short of the draconian sanctions originally demanded by Bonn. But it is considered sufficiently watertight for Germany to accept some degree of "flexibility" in applying the EMU treaty single-currency criteria in borderline cases.

The commission and most EU member states want any

penalties to be imposed only after errant governments have been given nine months in which to come up with corrective economic measures. Germany is still pushing for a six-month period of grace but it will agree to governments with deficits of more than 3 per cent of GDP (rather than the 1 per cent it originally demanded) having to make non-interest-bearing deposits with the central bank.

The rate of fines would start at about 0.2 per cent of GDP but could rise thereafter according to the extent of any excessive deficit.

Although there will be a "presumption" that sanctions should be imposed where a country runs an excessive deficit, no action will be taken until the commission has made an assessment of all the circumstances.

For all the stress on the long-term disciplines in the stability pact, EMU governments will still have to decide what in each case amounts to an excessive and persistent deficit.

# Concrete maker whistles in the gloom

RMC OUTLOOK/Pauline Springett on the construction famine hitting RMC's share price.

Stock market value	£2.8bn
Share price	111.1p ▼ 4.2p
Workforce	20,000
Interest cover	6.7
Dividend yield	4.2%
Sales	£2,114.9m -6.1
Pre-tax profit	£26.5m -26.5
Earnings before interest and tax	£22.2m -26.6
Dividend/share	7.8p +4.7
Operating profit	£m
UK	36.8
Germany	25.0
Other European countries	27.0
Countries outside Europe	19.7
Half year	1995
	1996

RMC tends to enjoy a good relationship with the City. It is the world's largest supplier of ready-mixed concrete — the origin of its name — plus a host of other building materials. Its products have a reputation for quality, and they are not prone to changes in fashion. Moreover, the company's management is respected and the balance sheet strong.

Nevertheless, RMC currently is straining its relationship with the City to the limit — witness the sharp slump in the share price yesterday.

This was caused not so much by the half-year profits warning in May. The real trouble is that despite a valiant attempt by the management to appear optimistic, the next six months look distinctly flat.

RMC has been caught out by two main factors: bad weather in Europe and a building industry in Germany which has gone off the boil. Add contin-

ued uncertainty in the UK construction market, plus problematic markets elsewhere, and you have a distinctly gloomy outlook.

At the root of poor results for the first half was the severe winter in Europe — it was still snowing heavily in Austria, for instance, in early summer. When the sun finally shone, construction industries in the main countries where RMC operates failed to ignite.

Germany is RMC's biggest market, accounting for 35 per cent of sales. The company has steadily increased its German business in recent years, and certainly took advantage of the initial boost in construction after the Berlin wall was removed. But things have changed. A decline in the rate of German housebuilding, and lower cement imports into eastern Germany, are taking their toll. Cost-reduction measures have been initiated by the firm but have yet to take effect. Several hundred jobs have gone so far and more cuts are likely.

Peter Young, chief executive of RMC, acknowledged that Germany was "problematic", adding that although he believed the second half of 1996 would be better than the first, sales were likely to dip again next year. "I can't see it improving until 1998," he said.

In the UK — RMC's other main market — the outlook is more mixed. Mr Young, who must be one of life's optimists, said he believed the housing market was at last set to pick up, and that the ailing private finance initiative — designed to co-fund projects with the Government — "will actually happen".

The rest of Europe is also mixed. Mr Young complained that many European economies were being held back because their governments were trying to hit targets in preparation for the single currency. France in particular was badly affected. Mr Young said that while RMC's French division turned in "another dismal performance", things could not get much worse.

Conditions are not bad throughout Europe, however. RMC's businesses in Portugal, Spain and Ireland are all performing well, and although each is relatively small on its own, the small bits do add up.

The US business is also picking up, thanks to a revitalised Californian construction industry.

In the long term the plan is to reduce RMC's reliance on Germany and the UK. There will be further expansion in Europe and in the rest of the world. The Israeli business is buoyant, and the company has recently started an operation in Jordan.

There are also plans to move into India — a country new to the delights of ready-mixed concrete.

But the refocusing is unlikely to be achieved by large purchases. Instead, RMC is likely to keep faith with its traditional mix of organic growth plus small bolt-on acquisitions. That means it may take some years before Mr Young's optimism bears fruit — the City must be patient.

## News Corp set for big profits rise — Murdoch

Lisa Buckingham

RUPERT Murdoch, chairman of News Corporation, has delivered a strongly upbeat profit forecast, predicting that the global media group will achieve a "very substantial" earnings increase in the current year.

He told shareholders that a 20 per cent budgeted profit increase for this year, which would lift profits to more than 1.5 billion Australian dollars (£761 million) before abnormal items — was realistic.

Rage box office takings from Independence Day, the film made by the group's 20th Century Fox studios in Hollywood, combined with moderating paper prices and strong advertising demand for Fox Broadcasting in America, will be at the heart of the profits surge.

Mr Murdoch's forecast follows a 6 per cent fall in group profits before abnormal items to \$1.26 billion in the year to June, when results were hit by the disposal of HarperCollins Educational publishing as well as continuing losses at Star TV, the Asian satellite broadcaster.

His statement in the annual report indicates that the poor performances from films, magazines and Australian newspapers are turning around. Newspaper increases cost the group more than \$300 million dollars last time and its consumer book publishing business, HarperCollins, was hit by the collapse of the Net Book Agreement.

But Mr Murdoch now says: "A substantial budgeted profit increase for the full year currently appears very attainable." The News Corporation stock price rose 8 cents to \$36.65 after the announcement.

## Jobs seesaw for BA and Morrisons

Sarah Whitebloom

SEVEN hundred and fifty jobs at British Airways' Heathrow operation looked set for the axe last night — 24 hours after the flag-carrying airline disclosed that 8,000 posts were to go over the next 18 months.

The news came as Morrisons, the Bradford-based supermarket chain, announced that it was to create 3,200 new jobs by opening four new superstores.

BA's plans became clear yesterday as it announced the closure of a loss-making handling unit — which provides ticketing, check-in, cargo, loading, ramp-handling and lost baggage for 25 other airlines at Heathrow terminals two and three.

The "world's favourite airline" aspects to be able to redeploy or retrain the majority of the 750 staff, although redundancy was not being ruled out.

BA's sweeping programme of cost cuts announced on Wednesday is designed to save £1 billion over the next three years. The chief executive, Bob Ayling, said yesterday: "We have examined at length both the opportunities to increase our prices to our customers and to reduce our costs of the operation, but have reluctantly concluded that it is impossible at current pay rates."

Meanwhile, Morrisons surprised the City as it unveiled an 8 per cent profits increase and the opening of four new superstores in some of the country's unemployment blackspots.

Morrisons, formed in 1899 but relatively unknown in the South, disclosed that it had 3.25 million customers a week going through its stores — contributing to pre-tax profits of £53.2 million for the first half of this year.

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# Workers rally against anti-PVC campaign

Roger Cowe

ALMOST 5,000 chemical industry workers joined a demonstration in Dusseldorf yesterday to support PVC against growing environmentalist criticism of the chlorine-based plastic.

Delegations from across Europe at the rally, organised by the chemical industry union, IG Chemie, and AgPU, the PVC industry campaign, heard North Rhine-Westphalia economic minister, Wolfgang Clement, via satellite link say there was no reason to avoid using PVC.

Industry representatives said 100,000 jobs were at risk in the German PVC industry as a result of PVC substitution. Greenpeace argues that new jobs could be created by using PVC-free materials.

Speakers burst balloons representing what they described as five lies about the plastic. Greenpeace claims manufacturing chlorine endangers the environment because of its heavy energy use and the threat from toxic chemicals such as mercury used in production.

It says the phthalates used to make PVC flexible, which were discovered in baby milk this year, are responsible for reproductive disorders. Controversy has also grown since

the Dusseldorf airport fire in April which killed 17 people. PVC cable coating was widely blamed for toxic smoke, and the plastic has been banned in public places by some German local authorities.

The industry says PVC was not an important factor and will be concentrated in the final report into the fire.

British chemical group ICI is heavily involved in the chlorine industry, though it has sold its PVC business.

DIY store B&Q and retailers such as Boots and Sainsbury are examining the case for alternatives. Allan Knight, B&Q environment manager, said the case for banning PVC was not proved.

"Both sides are wrong, I'm waiting for pragmatism to emerge."

Philip Law, spokesman for the British Plastics Federation, said last night: "Any burning produces toxic smoke. The removal of PVC from construction materials would make hardly any change to that. There are no health, safety or environmental reasons to abandon PVC."

Greenpeace toxics campaigner Benny Haertlin said: "It's PVC that turns a fire into a chemical accident. Chemical workers would do better to demonstrate for long-term job security through the use of chlorine-free plastics."

## The five big 'lies'

It is highly flammable and aggravated the airport blaze. Industry says: it is one of the most difficult materials to burn. Greenpeace says: it causes toxic smoke.

Production requires excessive amounts of energy. Industry says: it has a better energy balance than other materials. Greenpeace says: not across the whole lifecycle.

PVC is not recycled. Industry says: 70 per cent is recyclable. Greenpeace says: in Germany only 15 per cent will be by 2005.

It is toxic. Industry says: dioxins from burning PVC no more harmful than from a cigarette or barbecue. Greenpeace says: dioxins come from chlorinated compounds.

It is expensive. Industry says: replacing PVC would cost a fortune. Greenpeace says: the cost of cleaning up is enormous.

July 1996



as prices immune pping spread

Racing

Miss Stamper can complete nap hand

Ken Oliver

WHEN it comes to transforming a bargain buy into a valuable racing machine Richard Hannon has few equals and the Marlborough trainer has worked the grade this season with Miss Stamper who cost a mere 7,500 guineas.

This afternoon at Ayr, Miss Stamper bids to add the £18,000 first prize of the Shadwell Stud Fifth of Clyde Stakes to her tally which stands at more than £150,000 — not bad for a filly whose winning streak began in a mere auction maiden stakes at Chepstow in June.

Further victories against better class followed at Newbury and Newmarket, but missing on the cake was the Curragh 30 days ago when she stormed home by three lengths in the valuable Tattersalls Breeders' Stakes.

To enhance her breeding value, Hannon has chosen this filly's Listed race and Miss Stamper (3-35) looks set to complete the nap hand.

Following a filly in form at this time of the year is a profitable play, but many burnt their fingers at Doncaster last Saturday when Ninia, backed down to 7-2 favourite in a field of 17 handicappers, trailed in twelfth.

But her final position tells nothing of her performance. Her jockey, Richard Hills, got in all sorts of trouble and I feel certain he will not remember the ride as one of his best. Before that debacle Ninia had chalked up a hat-trick and, though carrying a 5lb penalty for her latest success, still looks on an attractive mark.

Mark Johnston, her trainer, has brought her back to one mile in the Ladbrokes Ayrshire Handicap after wins over 10 furlongs (twice) and nine furlongs.

Johnston feels that a mile is the ideal trip for Ninia (4.10), who was also entered for the mile and a quarter 2.35 race, and if there is any justice, those who lost their cash last week should certainly be repaid this afternoon.

At Newbury, Joe Naughton's Hever Golf Rose (2.40) can regain winning form in the Tony Stratton Smith Memorial Conditions Stakes.

This five-year-old mare has yet to find her form that notched eight wins last year, including the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp in October.

However, she has run some fine races and Naughton is using this as a prep race for another tilt at the Abbaye next month.

The Horserace Betting Levy Board has approved a £4 million interest-free loan to

Brave ends lean spell

SCOTTISH stables ended a losing spell stretching back more than a decade at the county's most prestigious flat fixture when Brave Montgomerie emerged triumphant at Ayr's Western Meeting yesterday.

Linda Ferrati, who has trained for five years at Cree Lodge, just a stone's throw from the track, was the woman responsible for restoring national pride.

"I reckon this is Scotland's first winner at this meeting for 12 years and I'm absolutely delighted to have done it," said the 32-year-old blonde.

Like all of Miss Ferrati's string, Brave Montgomerie is galloped on the race-up and he capitalised on home advantage when finding a powerful late run to overhail Canadian Fantasy in the Holiday In Ayrshire & Arran Maiden Stakes.

The colt is owned by construction company boss Colin McLaren, whose colours will be carried tomorrow by Don't Care in the Ladbroke Ayr Gold Cup.

Don't Care will be running for Miss Ferrati for the first time, having previously been trained in Ireland by Jim Bolger.



Hannon... eye for bargain

United Racecourses towards a £3.1 million building project for Kempton Park.

Plans for the course centre on the remodeling of the grandstand and the repositioning of the parade ring to a new site behind the grandstand.

It is intended that the project will be completed between the Boxing Day meeting of 1997 and the start of the December 1997. During this time the fixtures in January, February and December will be unaffected. Between March 29 and August 19 six meetings will be held with reduced facilities, while four fixtures, from June 1 to August 19, will be transferred.

Newbury with form for the televised events

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RACELINE 0930 1684

Ascot date SLEEPYTIME 7-1 for the 1,000 Guineas after her winning debut at Sandown on Wednesday...

Jiyush had his Caserewitch odds cut from 16-1 to 10-1 by Hill's after romping away with the Thomas Prior Memorial Stayers Handicap at Yarmouth yesterday...

Do really travel insurance? A very down to earth question. The words 'American Express' are understood around the world. That's important if you're abroad and you find you need medical attention, cover for lost baggage or personal property, compensation for travel delay or funding for legal expenses...

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Wellohnto shake



Cricket

County Championship: Leicestershire v Middlesex

Running Fox stands on verge of title

Mike Selvey at Grace Road

IT IS typical of cricket that when its premier competition comes to a climax the weather interferes. The Running Fox will not be quibbling, however, for while Surrey kicked their heels at The Oval and Kent came hardily untrunk with the bat at Bristol, Leicestershire were able to make sufficient headway to anticipate becoming champions by tomorrow.

Amid some faulty techniques and unmemorable boundaries and two sixes, both the product of an eagle eye and razor instinct and clumped off the front foot miles over midwicket. Only a couple of times did he appear in trouble. When 26, he edged Parsons, busting a gut into a sturdy wind, and a pity because there are few more talented batsmen around. Perhaps he will return.



Following suit... umpires Leadbeater and Willey imitate the Leicestershire huddle as another Middlesex wicket falls

Gloucestershire v Kent

Inspired Walsh puts Kent in cold sweat

Paul Weaver at Bristol

THIS was one of those charcoal-grey, bitterly cold days when one half-expects the new ball to be shared by Vincent Pries and Peter Cushing. There was also a hint of the funeral about Kent's title hopes.

It is not yet all over for Kent, though. They started the day 15 points behind the leaders but if they now win after taking a maximum four bowling points, which is quite possible on this indifferent pitch, and get a lot of help from Middlesex at Grace Road, they could still pip Leicestershire by a single point. But they probably have a better chance of winning the National Trophy.

taker with 81. Little wonder he has been offered a new two-year contract. Kent won the toss and may regret their decision to bat. The pitch is very slow and of uneven bounce, low and very low. Trevor Ward, however, showed that runs were available to the determined. He scored 86 in 3 1/2 hours before top-edging a pull against Mark Alleyne. He might have been out to the previous delivery when he pulled a short one to deep square leg; Andrew Symonds parried the ball as he stepped back over the rope and then came forward again to complete the catch, but Ward was given out under Law 32(a) which says a fielder must remain on the field at all times while taking a catch.

Being looked difficult for Kent from the moment Matthew Walker was out at slip and then Steve Marsh and Min Patel were caught behind in the space of four Walsh deliveries. Surrey's coach Dave Gilbert took The Oval's ground-staff to task between the showers yesterday, complaining that they had not adequately covered part of the square. That, he said, might have stopped play getting under way even if the rains had not returned at 2.30pm.

Derbyshire were in no mood to offer the bottom club Durham any late-season sympathy. Phil DeFreitas took decisive toll with five for 60 and, with Andrew Harris chipping in with three for 25, Durham survived only 45.1 overs for 142 runs. Chris Adams then proceeded to demonstrate how easy batting can be by rushing to 77 as Derbyshire made 136 for two.

Essex have eyes on second-best

WITH the championship title moving inexorably Leicestershire's way, the £30,000 cheque for second place has become the target of potential, if only partial, compensation for their rivals. Fourth-placed Essex certainly have their eyes on the money and, with their visitors Glamorgan, dodged the showers at Chelmsford where Graham Gooch (82) and Nasser Hussain (60) remained unruffled as they took the home side to 148 for one before the weather finally won shortly after tea.

proceeded to demonstrate how easy batting can be by rushing to 77 as Derbyshire made 136 for two. The England A tourist Michael Vaughan chose to walk off for bad light while unbeaten on 95 at Northampton, where Yorkshire reached 213 for four. But he had by then passed 1,000 runs for the season in an opening stand of 112 with Martyn Moxon (57).

Rugby Union Wales caught in the crossfire

Robert Armstrong

AUSTRALIA yesterday threatened to scrap their scheduled international against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park on December 1 if they are not given an autumn date against England. John O'Neill, the Australian RFU chief executive, has given England's seemingly interminable saga of strife a fresh twist by in effect holding the home unions' tours committee to ransom.

Davies the big asset

David Davies

Australia would prefer to play England at Twickenham on November 2 or 16, having failed to persuade the tours committee to allow the match on December 7 in place of the Wallabies' scheduled game against the Barbarians. With Tests already arranged against Wales, Scotland and Ireland, the tourists are eager to set up the opportunity of a grand slam, a feat they pulled off in 1984.

Advertisement for Eagle Insurance. Features a large image of an eagle with the word 'HELP!' written on its wing. Text includes 'On Insure with Eagle and get a free 24 hour legal helpline. Interested? Call 0800 333 800 for a motor or home quote'.

Scoreboard

Table of cricket scores for various matches including Gloucestershire v Kent, Essex v Glamorgan, and others. Lists players, runs, and wickets.

Cricket

Table of cricket news and scores, including 'Countries update' with lists of players and scores for various teams like Derbyshire, Durham, Essex, etc.

Phone for a free quote weekdays 9am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Motor insurance not available in Northern Ireland. We regret that we cannot quote for rented unfurnished accommodation.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Includes text like 'Fast track Super League' and 'The Guardian INTERACTIVE'.



# Golf Davies example the big Solheim asset for Europe

David Davies sees his namesake Laura as the scourge of the US at St Pierre

**G**OLFING history could be made at the St Pierre course near Chaponov over the next three days. If Europe beat the United States and regain the Solheim Cup, it will mark the first time that teams from both sides of the Atlantic have simultaneously held all four of the trophies contested with the US.

The Ryder, Walker and Curtis Cups are all safely ashore and, if the Solheim is not landed, the fault, remarkably, may lie not with the players but more with the misguided committee that negotiated the contest's rules.

These are heavily weighted in favour of the team with more strength in depth, acknowledged by both sides to be the Americans. It will need a remarkable European effort to counteract an advantage gifted to their opponents at the negotiating table.

The European players at St Pierre are confident nevertheless. They know they have the top three players in the Ping world rankings: Laura Davies, Annika Sorenstam and Lotta Neumann in that order. They also have three more in the top 20: Alison Nicholas, Marie Laure de Lorand and Helen Alfredsson — and the comforting thought that anything can happen in match play, as it did at Dalmahoy in 1992 when they beat the Americans 11½-6½.

But that win was achieved with a team of 10 who played a total of 18 matches. The Americans could not believe it, did not like it and took steps to prevent it happening again. For the 1994 contest the format was changed so there were more matches. The Americans won 12 and before that the format for this year had been changed yet again.

Once more the Europeans were hopelessly out-maneuvred. They ended up voting for a formula which gave them even less chance than they originally had, and they have spent the past two years defending the indefensible. In place of the "Dalmahoy formula" of 10-woman teams playing for 18 points, they now have teams of 12 competing for 28 points.

Given that the European former Open champion who has constructed a breathtakingly beautiful test, was one of Faldo's partners and said the Englishman had played "a perfect round of golf, tailored exactly to suit the surroundings".

Faldo's only imperfection was the bogey five on the 14th, retrieved at the next hole, after three birdies on the outward nine.

Spence had six birdies and one double bogey — at the par-four 12th — but was at pains to point out that he had led after the first round at 7:50 yesterday morning and completed his round about noon, he was still the pace-setter when the tail-enders finished some seven hours later.

Faldo was never able to draw alongside, his eventual three-under total being only as he met, but his odds have tumbled from 12-1 to 11-4 with the on-course bookmakers.

It surely helps to play with the designer of the course, especially on a course as new and demanding as this stretch of woodland on the bank of Scotland's most picturesque loch, Tom Weiskopf, the

captain Mickey Walker openly admits that the American tour is stronger in depth than the Europeans, such acquiescence is hard to follow.

The Americans have got what they wanted and now it is up to the European players to get their officials out of the hole they have dug for themselves. It will not be easy. The Americans may lack the top three in the rankings but they have numbers five to nine in Michelle McGann, Dottie Pepper, Meg Mallon, Kelley Robbins and Jane Geddes. Their entire side is within the world's top 21, whereas Europe's last six range from 22nd to 97th.

But the Americans do not have Laura Davies, a player who supplies the sort of inspiration Severiano Ballesteros did in the Ryder Cup, Gordon Sherry in the Walker Cup and Janice Moodie in the Curtis Cup. All have been focal points for their teams, able by force of personality to convince doubting players that the impossible does not exist.

Davies has been in irresistible form this season, having won two majors in the United States, two US Tour events, plus two wins in Europe and one in Japan.

Such has been her success, and the hummering way in which she achieves it, that comparisons are being made with Greg Norman. Has she not recently bought a Ferrari? And has she not, over the past 12 years, indulged her hobby of gambling to the extent of losses of \$500,000?

Surely this was life in the fast lane. Great White Shark style? "Oh, no," she said yesterday. "I only play at it. He's got serious money, he's the real thing. He's got all the toys."

Davies has played the last eight weeks in a row, winning last week, and might be expected to be tired. Captain Walker does not think so. "She is just incredible. She is probably stronger and fitter than anybody and has proved that by what she has done over the last 10 years."

"If she wasn't playing in the Euros, I would be happy to have her in the team. She would probably be having a game of football, followed by a game of tennis, to go out and play 18 holes in the afternoon following 18 in the morning is probably a relatively easy day for her."

In such diverse ways do people tell Laura they love her and, if she can reciprocate by helping win the Solheim Cup on Sunday, it would be a fitting end to what has been a superb season for her. **CONSIDERABLE EUROPEAN SUPPORTERS: A Sorenstam and K. Niemi v R. Rodgers and M. McGann. 08:15 L. Davies and A. Nicholas v S. Sorenstam and R. Rodgers. 08:30 M. L. Davies and L. Neumann v D. Pepper and B. Sartorius.**

## Faldo enjoys designer's perks to dog the tearaway Spence

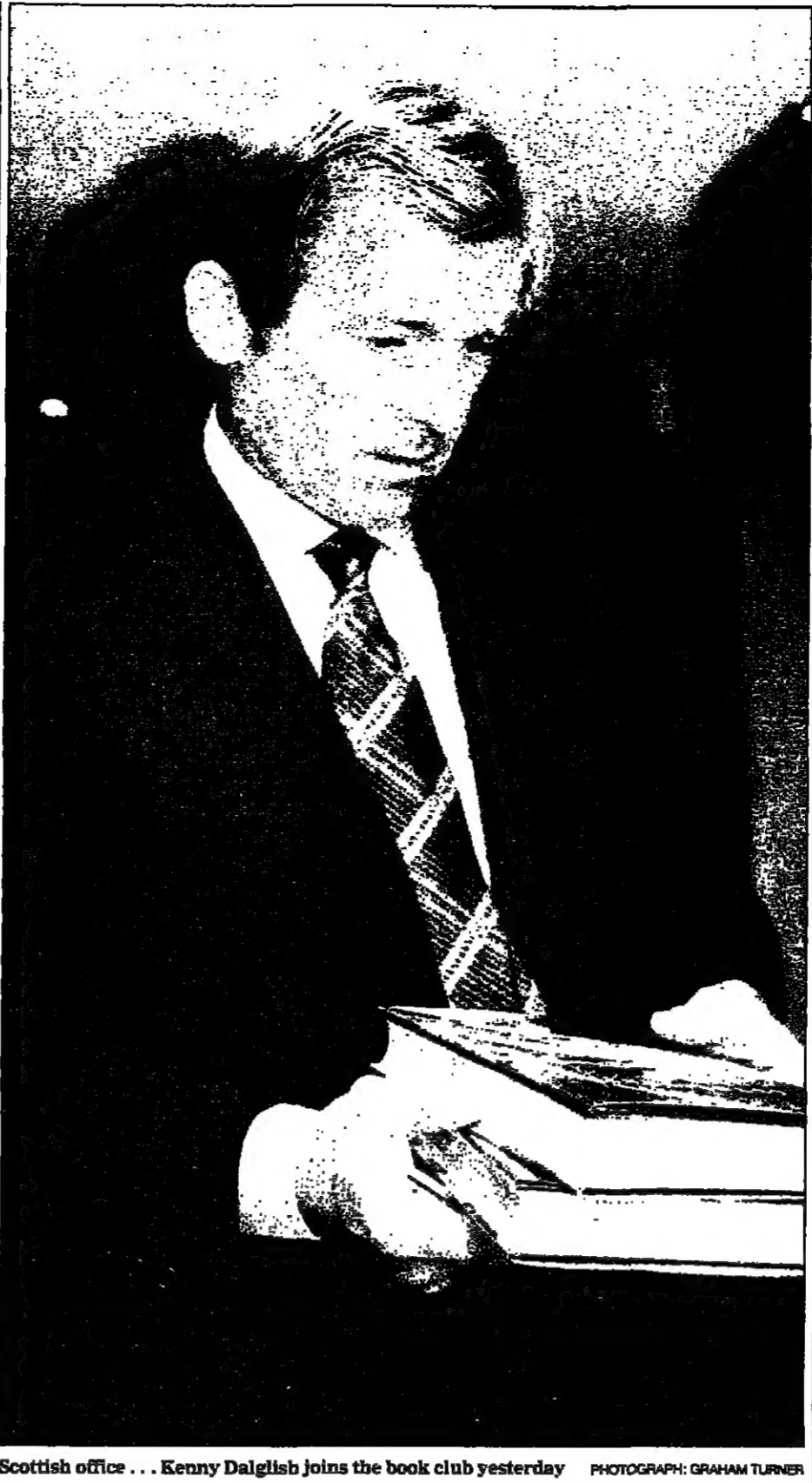
Patrick Glenn at Loch Lomond

**JAMIE SPENCE** must have gone to bed last night feeling the slightly sweaty uncertainty of a fugitive. One step ahead of the chasing pack in the inaugural Loch Lomond World Invitational, the 33-year-old Kentish man knows that the most formidable figure in the field is Nick Faldo.

Spence's four-under-par 67 has kept him ahead longer than he could have imagined. Having teed off at 7:50 yesterday morning and completed his round about noon, he was still the pace-setter when the tail-enders finished some seven hours later.

Faldo was never able to draw alongside, his eventual three-under total being only as he met, but his odds have tumbled from 12-1 to 11-4 with the on-course bookmakers.

It surely helps to play with the designer of the course, especially on a course as new and demanding as this stretch of woodland on the bank of Scotland's most picturesque loch, Tom Weiskopf, the



Scottish office... Kenny Dalglish joins the book club yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

## Soccer Dalglish edits the big issue

David Lacey on the grumbling appendix at the launch of the Scot's autobiography

**O**UTSIDE, in a rain-swept Haymarket, the homeless were selling the Big Issue. Inside a London restaurant a recent addition to the army of jobless, and owner of a rather nice house in Southport, was promoting an even bigger issue.

Kenny Dalglish, late of Celtic, Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers, launched his autobiography yesterday four weeks after ceasing to be the director of football at Ewood Park, a denouement which provides the 276-page book with a grumbling appendix.

Here Dalglish reiterates the explanation he gave at the time, namely that while holidaying in Spain he called the Rovers chairman, Robert Coar, to express reservations about the level of his involvement with the club, reservations which Blackburn shared.

"The title of director of football," Dalglish felt, "was a role with no authority and little guidance." Coar then informed him that "a letter had been sent to my home in Southport, saying our relationship had run its course."

Dalglish still feels Blackburn should have called him directly but adds that "I was ready to go because I wasn't getting enough job satisfaction." This despite watching 80 matches last season and driving 25,000 miles.

## Blackburn target Euro 96 hero Bierhoff at £5m

**BLACKBURN** Rovers are hoping to fill the gap that Alan Shearer left by signing the German international Oliver Bierhoff, writes Mark Redding.

The striker would be paired with Shearer's old SAS partner Sutton, now fit again after missing most of last season through injury, though presumably not to form the SOB.

Blackburn made on the sale of Shearer to Newcastle. The Lancashire side have hit the target only five times in the league this season. Bierhoff, 28, is an experienced goalscorer now with his sixth club and made the headlines in England when he came on as a substitute and scored twice in Germany's 2-1 victory over the Czech Republic in the final of Euro 96.

The sacked Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson is to join the BBC Radio 5 Live team. "I wanted a break from football management," he said.

"Who knows, it might be the start of a new career." Chelsea has signed Norway's international goalkeeper Frode Grodas on loan from Lillestrom until the end of the year. Grodas, 31, is needed as cover after the Russian Dmitri Khariin injured his knee.

The £5 million-rated winger Trevor Sinclair has hinted that he will remain at First Division Queens Park Rangers. "The club have always treated me in an adult way and I'm happy here," he said. "That's the way it's going to be unless they want to get rid of me."

## No Rush again for Wales

Martin Thorpe

**JAMIE RUSH**'s Wales career looks finally over after the 34-year-old Leeds striker was omitted from the squad for the World Cup qualifier against Holland in Cardiff on October 5.

It was thought that the manager Bobby Gould might recall Rush, who had dropped out of the squad for the last game against San Marino after failing to get a guarantee that he would be in the side. Wales will be without the suspended Ryan Giggs, and Rush's experience would, many thought,

have been invaluable in such an important match. But the rift seems irreparable, with Gould admitting he had not even contacted Rush about his omission.

Gould again prefers Arsenal's John Hartson up front and is likely to call on Everton's Gary Speed to cover Giggs's absence.

## Rugby League Fast track for Super League

Paul Fitzpatrick

**CHRIS CAISLEY** insisted a number of times yesterday that this is no breakaway. Even so, Rugby League (Europe) led some a lot like it.

This is the organisation — in the image of soccer's Premier League — that is now responsible for the running and promotion of the 12 Super League clubs and whose aims were outlined by its chairman, Bradford Bulls' chairman, at Salford yesterday.

It will have its own chief executive, its own staff and headquarters, and will work to its own agenda. But it will remain under the umbrella of the Rugby Football League and be answerable to its bylaws.

The RFL, as a shareholder in the new organisation, will also have the power of veto on certain issues, such as promotion and relegation.

RLE will work to a 10-point programme designed to generate increasing revenue; to secure sustainable profitability; to improve the profile and popularity of its clubs and players; to increase quality and competition; and, not least, to entertain.

There are still four years of the \$87 million deal with Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation to run. Caisley predicts that, at the end of that time, Super League will be so successful that News Corporation will be eager to sign a bigger and better new contract.

"At a time when rugby union is in complete disarray, when they are running about like headless chickens signing everybody under the sun and spending vast fortunes they will never recoup, we believe this organisation presents us with the best opportunity for taking the game forward," he said.

"We want the game to expand, but not at all costs. We want to make rugby league so attractive that people will want to buy into us. We will make things happen."

## Motor Racing I'll go to the limit, warns Hill

Alan Henry at Estoril

**DAMON HILL**, who will clinch the world championship here on Sunday if Jacques Villeneuve fails to finish ahead of him in the Portuguese Grand Prix, yesterday warned his Williams teammate that if necessary he will drive to the very limit to take the title.

Surely, he was asked, this did not mean he would deliberately run Villeneuve's car off the track? "Wouldn't it?" the Briton replied with a twinkle. "What I am saying is that I'm currently leading the championship and I am determined to win it."

"I am against unfair tactics," he added. "I have seen championships settled in the past in ways that I regard as unsatisfactory and I don't want it to happen this time. But if I am in the lead I will defend my position vigorously. There is no question about it. My situation is quite simple: I have to finish ahead of Jacques to finish the whole thing off."

"I do not want to resort to unfair tactics. It's always a matter of opinion as to what is fair and what is not. I drive the way I feel fit at any given time, and I'm at liberty to drive in a way which may not be the way that people expect me to drive. I have everything at my disposal. I don't always have to give way."

"If I can win this race cleanly, I believe I can start on pole, lead the race and not have to see another driver for the entire race. We will have to wait and see."

Hill leads Villeneuve by 13 points going into this penultimate race of the season. To finish second behind the Canadian driver on Sunday would leave him one point short of the championship, but Villeneuve could claim it only by winning next month's Japanese GP and with Hill failing to score a single point in that race.

Neither driver needs to be reminded that it was at Suzuka in 1990 that Ayrton Senna rammed Alain Prost off the road at the first corner, settling the championship in the Brazilian's favour. But Hill wants the title firmly in his grasp before setting off for Japan.

## Results

**Soccer**  
SCOTISH CUP: DUNDEE CUP: DUNDEE FC beat Dundee United 1-0. Dundee United beat Dundee FC 2-1. Dundee FC beat Dundee United 2-1.

**Rugby Union**  
IRISH RUGBY UNION: Ireland beat Scotland 17-12. Ireland beat Scotland 17-12.

**Golf**  
LOCH LOMOND INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT: Faldo leads Spence 69-68.

**Baseball**  
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukee beat Toronto 4-2. Boston beat New York Yankees 5-4. Cincinnati beat Cleveland 6-5.

**Cycling**  
TOUR OF SPAIN: Stage 18 (Granada to Alto del Mirador, 150.1 km). D. Navarro (E) won. J. A. Garcia (E) second. J. A. Garcia (E) third. J. A. Garcia (E) fourth.

**Equestrianism**  
EQUINE HORSE TRIALS (Dressage): Leading dressage competitor in Cathy Kerley (USA) 48.5. A. Wood (CAN) 48.5. Kerley (USA) 48.5. Wood (CAN) 48.5.

**Squash**  
OCEANIA CUP (Cairo): Quarter-finals: J. Khan (PAK) 11-9, 10-12. P. Neal (SCO) 11-9, 10-12. J. Khan (PAK) 11-9, 10-12. P. Neal (SCO) 11-9, 10-12.

**Fixtures**  
**Soccer**  
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First Division: Ipswich v Charlton (Sat 9-1). Second Division: Watford v Gillingham (Sat 9-1).

**Chess**  
2000 OLYMPIAD (Erevan): Round One: Indonesia 3½, England 3½ (Adams 1, Speelman 1, Sadler 1, Conquest 1), Scotland 4, US Virgin Islands 2, Croatia 2, Wales 1, Ireland 1, Ukraine 3, Sweden 2, England 3.

## Sport in brief

**Cycling**

Alex Zülle increased his lead on the Tour of Spain's first foray into the mountains, the 117-mile 13th stage. Aldo del Nardello, Laurent Jalabert moved up to second behind his ONCE team-mate in place of Miguel Indurain, who is now more than two minutes down in third.

**Motor Racing**

Murray Walker has been approached by ITV to switch channels when it takes over the coverage of Formula One from the BBC next season. "The deal has not been signed but both sides want each other," a source said. Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of Michael, is expected to sign a two-year contract with Jordan-Peugeot today.

**Ice Hockey**

Manchester Storm will add the Kingston Hawks trio Oleg Slinkov, Danius Bauba and John Hag to their squad for next Tuesday's opening European League game at home to TPS Turku of Finland, writes Vic Batchelder. Storm have also signed the Canadian forward Chad Penney, who is awaiting a work permit before he can join the team.

**Chess**

England share sixth place, half a point behind the top-seeded Russians, after three rounds of the 121-nation Olympiad in Armenia, writes Leonard Barden. England's women made an even better start and share third place behind Russia and Georgia.

**Soccer**

Diego Maradona, fresh from his rehabilitation in a Swiss clinic, went on the rampage in a hotel lobby in Alicante, Spain, at five o'clock yesterday morning, breaking a table and turning over chairs. The Argentinean was apparently trapped in a lift for 20 minutes after a night on the town.

Saturday 28th-Sunday 29th September  
**FESTIVAL AT ASCOT**  
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Richard concert) is real and the forecast not encouraging. Lloyd is looking for a quiet kill and has his strongest team. When Britain beat Slovenia 4-1 in Newcastle this week, he was ill, and in July Greg Rusedski was injured for the visit to Ghana.

**Tennis**  
**Henman leads hunt for group one security**  
Stephen Bierley  
IF NOSTALGIA is the nostalgia of the emotions then SW19 is set for three days of pain as Wimbledon's No. 1 court, that most quirky of tennis stages, makes its competitive bow this weekend.

Richard concert) is real and the forecast not encouraging. Lloyd is looking for a quiet kill and has his strongest team. When Britain beat Slovenia 4-1 in Newcastle this week, he was ill, and in July Greg Rusedski was injured for the visit to Ghana.

**Tennis**  
**Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom**  
"Tanner is very solid from the baseline and can serve well at times," said Henman. Playing on grass is clearly in Britain's favour, although No. 1 court is bound to be on the slow side given the current damp conditions. Henman, the world No. 33, plays Amir Gboneim, ranked some 500 places below him, in today's second singles.

**Chess**  
2000 OLYMPIAD (Erevan): Round One: Indonesia 3½, England 3½ (Adams 1, Speelman 1, Sadler 1, Conquest 1), Scotland 4, US Virgin Islands 2, Croatia 2, Wales 1, Ireland 1, Ukraine 3, Sweden 2, England 3.

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# SportsGuardian

## AMERICANS HOLD ALL THE ACES EXCEPT ONE AS SOLHEIM CUP STARTS TODAY



Tell Laura we love her... Britain's world No. 1 Laura Davies has an appreciative gallery yesterday as she practises for the Solheim Cup match against the United States. At stake is the only major trophy the Americans have not ceded to a European team. Full story, page 15

## Tailor made for a role in midfield



Jim White

IT IS now official: the "Most Stylish Man in Britain" is a footballer. At yesterday's Menswear Awards ceremony, held in the Park Lane Hotel, Jamie Redknapp pipped Ruud Gullit to the coveted title. It could not have been closer, apparently; Redknapp won it by a lapel difference. No one at the ceremony seemed surprised that a footballer rather than, say, a pop singer or film star was regarded as, in the words of the compilers, "the kind of man the youth of today looks to as a style icon". According to Mike Souter, editor of FHM, the fashion magazine sponsoring the event, footballers are the snappiest dressers in Britain. Designers, he said, anxious for instantly recognisable clothes-horses, pursue them constantly. Paul Smith kitted out the England team with their off-duty outfits in Euro 96. Hugo Boss took on Manchester United, and Wayne Hemingway of Red Or Dead was so keen on a connection with football that he designed this season's kit for Chelsea.

with cash, drowning in free time, footballers these days have become leading experts in tailoring. Ask a Premiership midfielder whether he prefers four or five across the middle and, more often than not, he will assume you are referring to the number of buttons on his jacket. In a revealing profile for the Manchester United Video Magazine last year Lee Sharpe invited the cameras into his lovely home. One room was lined with wardrobes. This, the player said, opening a cupboard door to reveal acres of knitwear, was a special room, the place where he kept his jumpers. Such a wanton display of trippery, one felt at the time, was not the best way to endear Sharpe to Alex Ferguson with his film-like Furitan soul and a blazer and grey slacks for every occasion. How relieved, after leaving Fergie, Sharpe must have been to see the elegant George Graham smooth into Elland Road: so much easier to relate to a manager who understands the fundamental human need to go out and spend £200 on a cardigan. Significantly Graham did not select Sharpe for his first match in charge at the club. Official word was that the player was injured, but the astute will surmise that Graham had sent him out on a scouting mission scouring Leeds for outlets stocking Cerruti and Tommy Hilfinger.

## Jilted Lee may now look abroad for City

Ian Ross on the Maine Road chairman's latest rebuff in his search for a manager

THE managership of Manchester City was all but confirmed as the most undesirable job in English football yesterday when Dave Bassett announced that he would remain with Crystal Palace.

charge at Maine Road, Bassett changed his mind to plunge City still further into turmoil. Bassett is the third high-profile manager to turn down the chance to follow Alan Ball, who resigned last month three games into the season. Only eight hours after saying he was willing to take

overtures before succeeding Howard Wilkinson at Leeds United last week, and Howard Kendall, the former City manager now in charge at Sheffield United, snubbed two formal approaches from Lee and his fellow directors. With City's current caretaker manager Asa Hartford

adamant that he does not want the job on a full-time basis, Lee finds himself back at square one almost a month after Ball's departure. Lee said Bassett had verbally accepted the invitation late on Wednesday night. Lee went to bed believing his embarrassing search for a manager was finally at an end, only to be awoken at 7.05am by the phone call from Bassett.

"Dave accepted the job but then rang and said he changed his mind overnight. I am flabbergasted. He even discussed players with me; he gave me a definite yes that he wanted the job and told me to go out and buy [a player] this morning." Lee rejected claims that would-be occupants of the Maine Road hot seat had been put off because he had a reputation for interfering in the dressing room. "I am astonished at this claim," he said. "You can ask my previous manager Brian Horton. I do not interfere with the manager, but if a manager asked me for my opinion obviously I would give it."

Bassett's decision came 38 hours after City had been humiliated by the Third Division side Lincoln City, losing 4-1 in a Coca-Cola Cup tie. "Francis Lee was disappointed," he was devastated," said Bassett. "I had to think long and hard but believe I have reached the professionally correct decision. I have started a job at Selhurst Park and would like to finish it." With debts of around £20 million, an injury-ravaged senior squad of debatable quality and increasingly impatient supporters, City are moving swiftly towards another major crisis. This morning Lee will find himself drawing up yet another shortlist of prospective candidates and, though the names of Port Vale's John Rudge, Stoke City's Lou Macari and Barnsley's Danny Wilson are likely to feature, he may now decide to take his search abroad.

THIS is the difference between now and the Seventies: since the average Premiership footballer buys a jacket every other day, the law of averages dictates that he must occasionally get his hands on something stylish, though the law of averages seems to have given a wide berth to Barry Venison, John Barnes and the entire Liverpool squad at this year's Cup final. Oddly for the "most stylish man in Britain", the deal to supply vanilla-coloured suits to Liverpool that day was brokered by Redknapp. Sadly, as they say on these occasions, he could not be at the ceremony yesterday to offer his explanation for that observation. He sent along Louise, the pop singer described as "his close personal friend", to pick up the award on his behalf. Louise, wearing a black dress cut so low on the midriff it might have been designed by a plumber, explained that Jamie was "completely honoured to win this award, which means so much to him". She did not say why he could not be there; out buying clothes, presumably.

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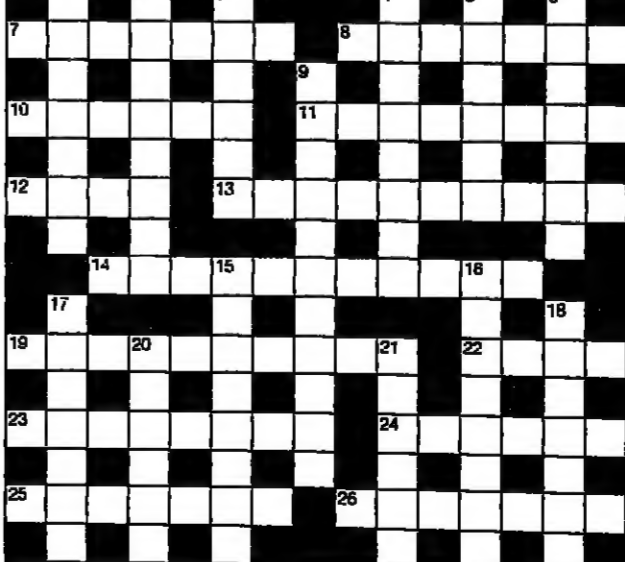
**Lyle Lovett is as famously lop-sided as ever, but it's his combination of discreet urban style and a permanent expression of amused incredulity that makes him such an enduring focus of interest.**

Adam Sweeting

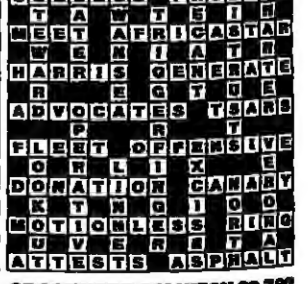
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## Guardian Crossword No 20,763

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- 7 Crying, having finally got a reprimand (7)
  - 8 Hidden — but not from a gunman? (7)
  - 10 Credit is twice provided in an emergency (6)
  - 11 Repeatedly try to express approval (4,4)
  - 12 Branch member (4)
  - 13 Pink gin ran out, seen on the table (6,4)
  - 14 Its occupant won't stand for revolution (6,5)
  - 19 Put on guard from a combination of fear and wonder (10)
  - 22 Notice an awkward situation (4)
  - 23 Barrels found around ancient dumps (8)
  - 24 Famous film-star who is around no more (6)
- Down**
- 1 Breach code of the Israelites (7)
  - 2 Travel through East End district with offensive weapon (8)
  - 3 The bay of the hounds? (6)
  - 4 Russian comrade (8)
  - 5 It limits the movement of stock (6)
  - 6 Recovers one's possession? (7)
  - 9 Rows in forms that will please the eye (11)
  - 15 Engineer Davis cut bridges (8)
  - 16 The point in folly that becomes madness (8)
  - 17 City company gains a record couple of points (7)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,763

- 18 Scotsman going it alone: was he wise? (7)
- 20 Last though almost sure to finish on top (6)
- 21 Cheeky, but attractive, feature (6)

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Saturday September... With Simon Noss... the Cardinal... Bet... his Murdoch feat... she will never w... Inside